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May 10, 2010

Honorable Ron Wyden
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

Honorable Jeff Merkley
107 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

RE: *DREAM Act*

Dear Senators Wyden and Merkley:

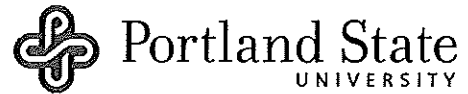
We write to urge your serious consideration to co-sponsor the Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors Act—otherwise known as the DREAM Act. Passage of this legislation would remove an obstacle facing states, including Oregon, as they grapple with devising strategies to educate as many students as possible—from kindergarten to post-secondary—across our country.

Currently, Oregon, as with all states, offers a free, public education to all students, regardless of documentation status. Undeniably, education represents a significant and indispensable investment in the future of our communities, state, country, and people. With obstacles codified currently in federal law, however, many states and public systems of higher education are deterred from opening the door to a group of qualified undocumented students educated in US high schools. In many instances, these students, due to no fault of their own, were brought to the United States as small children without immigration documentation. Despite this, these students successfully finished school, have positively contributed to their communities, and are poised to continue in colleges and universities across our land. Without the DREAM Act, however, the barriers facing these students—particularly with regard to cost due to lack of access to financial aid or in-state tuition—often proves too much.

States should be free to tackle the policy concerns facing education and demographics and come up with creative solutions to the challenges of our future. For many states, considering their demographics, resources, and investment in their public education system, offering in-state tuition to those that meet certain criteria, such as graduation from an in-state high school and maintaining residency for a certain period of time, might be a wise policy decision. In the interest of fairness and in the spirit of allowing our states to serve as the laboratories of democracy, we urge your co-sponsorship and support of the DREAM Act.

Sincerely,

George Pernsteiner
Chancellor
Oregon University System



Office of the President

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May 18, 2010

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United State Senate
230 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing to request your sponsorship of the Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act). Passage of this legislation will create tuition equity for undocumented residents seeking post secondary education. As the President of Oregon's largest and most diverse public university, let me assure you that we want these students on our campus and in our classrooms.

With obstacles codified currently in federal law, many states and public systems of higher education are deterred from opening their doors to qualified undocumented students educated in our nation's high schools. Education is the pathway to success and Oregon is committed to making the initial investment in these students by providing access to primary and secondary education. It is unfortunate that the law prevents us from making higher education equally accessible.

States and institutions need the flexibility to tackle the unique policy concerns facing education in their communities. Offering in-state tuition to those that meet certain criteria is a wise policy decision. I urge you to sponsor and support the DREAM Act.

If you need any further assistance, please contact Mary Moller at 503-725-9818.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Wim Wiewel'.

Wim Wiewel
President

SOUTHERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 18, 2010

Honorable Ron Wyden
U.S. Senate, Oregon
223 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-3703

RE: *DREAM Act*

Dear Senator Wyden:

I write to encourage your consideration to co-sponsor the Development, Relief, Education for Alien Minors Act—otherwise known as the DREAM Act. I understand that we have three Oregon sponsors—Senator Merkley, Representative Wu and Representative Blumenauer. I believe this act is deserving of sponsorship from our entire Oregon delegation.

Southern Oregon University is committed to diversifying our student enrollment. While we continue to see marginal increases in our minority populations, I am convinced we could substantially increase our Latino enrollment if we were able to create strategies such as this to encourage the continued education of this minority population.

With the DREAM ACT, students would have greater access to public higher education regardless of their documentation status. In southern Oregon we see many first-generation Latino students complete high school. Some continue with their education at the local community college. Oregon would benefit greatly from the continued education of more students and the continued contribution of diverse populations in our communities.

Sincerely,



Mary Cullinan
President, Southern Oregon University