

VIRGINIA COALITION OF LATINO ORGANIZATIONS
vacolao@gmail.com

HOUSE APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

HB747 (In-state tuition for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Holders)

House Education Committee on Wednesday, January 29th referred HB747 to House Appropriation Committee to determine Fiscal Impact of this bill.

TALKING POINTS:

- According to the 2014 Fiscal Impact Statement issued by the Department of Planning and Budget, the fiscal impact of HB747 is indeterminate in the short-term and no anticipated long term impact.

“...Fiscal Implications: In the short-term, the bill may result in a fiscal impact due to a reduction in out-of-state tuition revenue if students who are currently enrolled or registered as entering students, classified as out-of-state, become eligible for in-state tuition. However, the magnitude of a potential short-term impact cannot be determined because the number, and tuition status, of undocumented individuals attending Virginia colleges and universities and meeting the requirements of this bill, is presently unknown. In the long-term, there should be little or no fiscal impact. Colleges and universities can accept additional out-of-state students to offset any lost revenue from any presently enrolled students impacted by this legislation. Furthermore, for all future enrollment decisions after the enactment of this bill, the affected students’ statuses will be known as in-state to the colleges and universities, allowing them to make acceptance decisions accordingly”

- Twelve states have passed similar in-state tuition bills. The concerns expressed in previous years—that such bills are not permitted by federal law, or that extending in-state tuition to this deserving group of students would require the states to offer in-state tuition to all U.S. citizens—have proven to be unfounded. Federal courts in Kansas and California have upheld their in-state tuition laws in cases making this argument.
- This is a good investment. Mere net cost comparisons between in-state and out-of-state tuition rates ignore the fiscal tax benefits generated by immigrants including DACA holders and undocumented immigrants. College opportunities reduce dropout rates, saving costs in criminal justice & public benefits. A study in Illinois found the net fiscal impact negligible at best, and a study in California found that every dollar invested in closing the gap generated \$2.60 in public benefits. Training university personnel in proper screening of immigration status is costly & undesired by the universities, while lack of training leaves the Commonwealth vulnerable to discrimination lawsuits. Educating non-citizens among us in the present means a more educated new citizen population when the possibility of naturalization is realized in the near future. Odds of educational and economic success improve for the American-born citizen offspring of immigrants when parents are more highly educated.

P.O. Box 6120 Arlington VA 22206
www.vacolao.org