

Why should we allow these students to obtain in-state tuition?

Return on Investment - In strictly economic terms, Virginia has already invested millions of dollars into the education of these undocumented children. According to the US Census Bureau, Virginia spends approximately \$10,930 per year per student for primary and secondary education. This means that for the estimated 1,400 undocumented students that graduated from VA high schools in 2013, we have spent \$15.3 million in 2013 alone and approximately \$198.9 million over 13 years to educate these children.

To nurture and educate these students from elementary to high school only to turn them away when they reach higher education is not only a waste of money, but also great talent and potential. Education quickly pays for itself. It is a benefit to society, not just to those who go to school.

Strengthening our Economy – DACA students are authorized to work in the United States. Raising the caliber of our workforce through higher education allows Virginia to maintain a strong economy. For every individual that attends college and obtains a professional job, that means increased earnings resulting in higher taxes paid, more money spend and investment back into the economy, and less reliance on the social safety net.

More State and Local Revenue - State and local taxes paid by a college-degree holder (\$4,600) are almost twice that of a high school graduate (\$2,500). For each college-degree holder, their additional earnings translate into over \$2,000 in state and local tax revenue each year, giving those economies an extra boost.

Accessibility - Allowing these students to pay in-state tuition rates makes higher education more attainable, as these individuals do not qualify for federal financial aid and the average income of parents of such children is low. Even those students who are eligible for in-state tuition almost always have to work full-time or part-time jobs throughout their college careers. Given these financial challenges, very few undocumented students actually attend college.

Fairness – DACA children were brought to this country at no fault of their own. Many at such a young age, they did not even know they were undocumented until they started applying to college. They know no other home but Virginia and now, thanks to the DACA program, they are allowed to stay, work, and build a life in Virginia. As Virginians, these students deserve an opportunity to pursue the American Dream by earning a better life for themselves and their families.

In fact, In-state tuition is already granted to other documented Virginia immigrants such as those with Temporary Protected Status (TPS). TPS is a temporary legal status, which is similar to DACA in that it is indefinitely renewable every 18 months while DACA status is indefinitely renewable every 24 months.

In addition, residents from other states are allowed to establish domicile after only one year of living in Virginia. If the Virginia Tuition Equity Act were passed, Virginia's DACA children would be required to provide proof that they (or their parents/legal guardians) have filed Virginia income taxes for three years as well as proof that they attended a Virginia public or private high school for three years. This would be a significantly higher threshold to receive in-state tuition than any other in-state or out-of-state students.