

DREAM ACT DIES AGAIN!



by

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The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act of 200 (commonly referred to as the DREAM Act has failed in the Senate once again. The Senate bill (S. 2205) was re-introduced in the Senate last week as a separate bill after it failed as an amendment to a Department of Defense authorization bill.

The DREAM act would have provided a path to permanent resident status for certain undocumented individuals who came to the United States prior to the age of 16, have resided in the U.S. for at least five years, pass security and criminal background checks and have graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED certificate and who go to college or enter the U.S. military. Unfortunately, the Senate vote to invoke “cloture” (which have allowed debate on the DREAM Act to proceed) failed to receive the 60 necessary votes. As a result, the DREAM Act has died yet again.

The DREAM Act would have provided hope to many young undocumented immigrants who entered the United States at a very young age (often at a time when their parents brought them and they themselves had not choice on whether to come to the United States in the first place) and have gone to school and graduated from high school. These young men and women face obstacles in going to college (lack of federal financial aid, out-of-state tuition rates and inability to be admitted to many schools due to their undocumented status). The DREAM Act would have given these students an incentive to continue their education by going to college or to enter the U.S. military. If they did, they would have been eligible for a green card.

Both of North Carolina’s Senators (Elizabeth Dole and Richard Burr) failed to see the merits of the DREAM Act and voted against it. For a listing of how the Senators voted on the “cloture” motion for the DREAM Act, [click here](#). Keep these votes in mind when choosing your next Senator!

The U.S. Senate failed at passing comprehensive immigration reform earlier this summer and has failed once again in passing a limited provision (the DREAM Act) which makes such good sense!

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