

This resolution was adopted by the ALA Council on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, at its Council III meeting on Tuesday, January 11, 2011, in San Diego, CA

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF REQUESTING CONGRESS TO REINTRODUCE AND VOTE ON THE DREAM ACT**

Whereas America's immigrants are a strong and valuable part of the social fabric of this nation; and

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) strongly supports the protection of each person's civil liberties, regardless of that individual's nationality, residency, or status; and that ALA opposes any legislation that infringes on the rights of anyone in the USA or its territories, citizens or otherwise, to use library resources, programs, and services on national, state, and local levels (ALA Policy 52.4.5);

Whereas the ALA *Library Bill of Rights* states that the person's right to use a library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background, or views;

Whereas the American Library Association supports higher education and advocates diversity in the library profession.

Whereas 65,000 undocumented immigrant children graduate from high school each year;

Whereas many immigrant children have been in the United States for so long that they have no memory of any other "homeland," learning of their undocumented status only when they apply for college or the military;

Whereas the DREAM Act aims to create pathways to citizenship for immigrant children who were brought to this country before age 16, are under 30 years of age, and have lived here for a minimum of five years, and wish to attend college or join the military;

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office recently released a report scoring the latest version of the DREAM Act and found it would reduce deficits by \$1.4 billion between 2011 and 2020; and

Whereas Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano states that the DREAM Act would allow the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to spend more enforcement resources removing undocumented immigrants with criminal records; now, therefore, be it;

Resolved that the American Library Association (ALA):

- (1) urges members of the Congress of the United States to re-introduce and vote for the DREAM Act; and.

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- (2) urges members of the Congress to include community service and vocational education – in addition to attending college and joining the military – as a pathway to citizenship; and.
- (3) asserts that having higher education, military service, or community service will provide these immigrant children greater success in life through higher lifetime earnings, higher income tax contributions, greater contributions to the economy, and less reliance on government assistance.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association



Keith Michael Fiels  
ALA Executive Director and Secretary of the ALA Council  
Tuesday, January 11, 2011  
In San Diego, California