



Congressman Pedro R. Pierluisi
Statement for the Record
H.R. 5281 – Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2010
December 8, 2010

Mr. Speaker: I rise today in strong support of the DREAM Act. This bill has been nearly 10 years in the making, and its consideration by this House is long overdue.

The DREAM Act reflects our highest American values—that those who are willing to work hard will be given the chance to succeed. Members of this chamber often speak eloquently about America being the land of opportunity. Today, we can make these words a reality for those young people who were brought to this country as children years ago, who have done well in school, and who now seek to pursue higher education or military service.

I cannot imagine another group of potential Americans more deserving of this opportunity to resolve their immigration status. The DREAM Act would provide conditional immigration status to individuals who were brought to the U.S. when they were 15 years old or younger, have lived in this country for five years, and have graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a G.E.D. Only after completing a 13-year-long process would these individuals be eligible for citizenship.

Let's be clear: These young people have done nothing wrong. They had virtually no choice in coming to the United States, just as all of us here had no choice over whether we were born in

the United States—and thus were automatically granted U.S. citizenship—or were born in another country. We should not continue to punish these commendable young men and women for the actions of others by denying them the opportunity to attend college or serve in our nation's armed forces.

Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.