

The Possibility of Living the DREAM: A Study on Legislation Regarding Immigration Policy for Undocumented Minors

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Abstract

This study aims to gain a deeper understanding of international immigration laws in order to suggest possible revisions to the current Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act that could allow it to receive stronger bipartisan support. The passing of this law is extremely relevant to modern day politics due to the sheer number of people it affects as well as the mental and societal issues it could resolve. Using a case study analysis method, the study examines countries that receive a large number of immigrants, both legal and illegal, and the way in which they deal or dealt with the high influx of new people entering the workforce and education system. Through an analysis of Italian and Greek immigration laws using the Eurolex European Law database, the researcher investigated actual events and policies that have been successful in their respective countries. In addition, the study uses previous United Nations (UN) suggestions and policies to analyze the general international consensus regarding child rights, education rights, and immigration rights. By combining all these factors and synthesizing the viewpoints of two different countries as well as UN agreements, the study creates and provides reasoning for possible DREAM Act revisions in the future.

Keywords: Immigration, DREAM Act, minors, education, case study, United Nations, United States, Italy, Greece, legislation, illegal immigration

Introduction

Differing viewpoints within the United States

Figure 1: “Migration is Beautiful” is a work created by Favianna Rodriguez (2013) to symbolize the ways in which humans limit themselves through artificial borders, which do not affect the animal kingdom, allowing monarch butterflies to migrate to wherever they have the best chances of survival depending on the season.



Favianna Rodriguez (2013) is a political activist who uses art to express her views, spread her ideas, and encourage others to do the same. She is the creator of the liberal immigration movement logo, a butterfly with wings that depict a loose outline of a face (Rodriguez, 2013). The monarch butterfly, an insect well-known for its annual migration patterns, has become a symbol for the immigration movement. In an interview with Open Borders, Rodriguez (2013) said that “the monarch butterfly represents the dignity and resilience of migrants, and the right that all living beings have to move freely” (as cited in Haro, 2017). While animals roam the world freely, humans choose to impose limits and boundaries on each other. Through art and political action, Rodriguez and her supporters attempt to prove that migration is indeed beautiful, whether it occurs in the orange flurry of butterflies migrating in search of warmth in the winter, or the millions of undocumented humans migrating in search of stability and opportunity.

Figure 2: “Sorry I wasn’t expecting company” is a political cartoon drawn by Lisa Benson to showcase the ill effects of unplanned for visitors can have on an already stretched-thin economy.



In this, political cartoon, Lisa Benson (2011), a graphic designer who draws conservative political cartoons to illustrate news articles has depicted a struggling family of eight that must continue to

make room and provide resources for more children. The mother-figure in the cartoon is shown carrying a wooden spoon and a bowl that says “FIN. AID” on it (Benson, 2011). With a tired look on her face, she says “Sorry, I wasn’t expecting company “ to a stork carrying a baby in a blanket that says “DREAM ACT” (Benson, 2011). This political cartoon portrays the flip side of the DREAM Act. While it would be ideal to help everyone, it can be unrealistic to stretch funds and resources, especially for people who are not already a part of the “family”. This cartoon illustrates how the passing of the DREAM Act can be detrimental to taxpayers.

Daniel Stein is the President of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a group that preaches conservative immigration ideals. This company is a strong opposer of the passing of the DREAM Act. Stein obtained a law degree from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America. The FAIR staff (2016) published a piece on their site stating that “Americans are losing their jobs to imported workers.” Ira Mehlman (2011), the Media Director of the same company, added to the site by writing that “the DREAM Act absolves illegal aliens of their fundamental responsibilities as parents”. She voices a belief that many people have that the DREAM Act allows parents to be rewarded for their illegal actions. Furthermore, the passing of the DREAM Act could cause larger groups of illegal immigrants to feel welcomed in the United States. By allowing one generation to be pardoned from punishment, future generations will more flippantly ignore the laws that were in existence in the first place (Mehlman, 2011). However, according to Richard Durbin (2017), the Senator who originally proposed the DREAM Act, many other Republicans are willing to give DREAMers a chance to succeed in the United States, meaning that the act faces strong bipartisan support.

Steven A. Camarota is the Director of Research for the Center of Immigration Studies. He obtained a Master’s degree in Political Science from the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD in public policy analysis from the University of Virginia. Camarota (2014) wrote that the passing of the DREAM Act “may reduce the educational opportunities available to U.S. citizens”. For instance, because 1.03 million illegal immigrants may enroll in public institutions, they can cost taxpayers an average of 6.2 billion dollars a year, excluding other forms of financial aid (Camarota, 2014). William Pérez is a professor at the Claremont Graduate University’s School of Educational Studies. He obtained a PhD in Child and Adolescent Development/Educational Psychology from Stanford University, and his research focuses on the social and psychological development of immigrant students. In the book “*We ARE Americans*”, Pérez (2014) highlighted the personal stories and economic effects of undocumented immigrants. However, he argues that they benefit the economy as much as taxpayers benefit them, if not more. While undocumented immigrants may use large sums of taxpayer dollars, they also spend a lot of money on local goods and services. According to The Economic Roundtable, a nonprofit research organization, “the 400,000 undocumented workers in Los Angeles County spend \$5.7 billion annually on food, rent, transportation, and other necessities” (as cited in Pérez, 2014, p xxi). These statistics prove that illegal immigrants do not simply take money from the government; by residing in the United States, they must pay for and afford the cost of living, meaning they must earn money as well as spend money. Also, because they tend to work for lower wages, undocumented babysitters allow families to increase their income by allowing both parents to work, which stimulates the local economy (Pérez, 2014, p. xxi).

Traditionally, Democrats are in favor of the DREAM Act. Rubén Hinojosa, a liberal Representative for Texas’ 15th congressional district, believes that DREAM students “exemplify the best of American ideals, such as hard work, perseverance, and the desire to contribute to [the] Nation’s workforce, economy, and civic life” (as cited in Mahatmya and Gring-Pemle, 2014, p. 82). Due to growing up under stressful academic situations, they oftentimes tend to appreciate the value of education to a greater extent and work particularly hard to prove themselves worthy of receiving financial aid and perhaps even an education in the first place. Robert Menendez is a Democratic New Jersey Senator who

was elected Chair of the United States Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and is avid supporter of the DREAM Act. According to Menendez, the government “should not punish children for their parents’ past decisions [because] students who would be helped by the DREAM Act did not make the decision to enter this country in an undocumented fashion” (Senate, 2011). The crimes of one generation should not be paid for by another generation. Because this act has had trouble passing through Congress, the Obama Administration “granted deferred action to stop the deportation of more than 1.4 million undocumented immigrants who came to the US before age 16” (Mahatmya and Gring-Pemble, 2014, p. 80).

Kamala Harris is a Democrat who obtained a bachelor’s degree in political science and economics from Howard University and a JD from University of California, Hastings College of Law. According to a floor speech Harris made (2017), “the decision to rescind DACA is part of a much broader and troubling attempt to remake the demographics of the country by cracking down on immigrants” (Harris 2017). A common belief of the Democratic party is that the Trump Administration’s xenophobic ideals characterize immigrants by labeling them as criminals and job takers (Harris 2017). However, DACA applicants and recipients must go through an extensive process full of background checks and paperwork in order to prove that their presence in the country would have only beneficial results (Harris, 2017). Through this process, the criminals and harmful people will not be granted citizenship or treated the same way in which an upstanding immigrant would be. In addition, by definition, the only people who will benefit from this act are those at a grade-school level age, meaning that psychologically, their personalities are still developing. This means that providing them with an education could be used as a preventative measure to lower their chances of succumbing to a life of criminal activity. According to Durbin, the purpose of the DREAM Act was to give innocent children a way to be accepted as a part of American culture, specifically the education system (Durbin, 2017).

History of the DREAM Act and previous proposals

Duhita Mahatmya obtained a PhD in philosophy from Iowa State University. Lisa M Gring-Pemble obtained a Bachelor of the Arts degree in Political Science and Hispanic Studies from St. Olaf College. In “DREAMers and their Families: A Family Impact Analysis of the DREAM Act and Implications for Family Well-Being,” Mahatmya and Gring-Pemble (2014) stated that the goal of the DREAM Act is to “eliminate federal provisions that penalize states for granting undocumented students in-state tuition... [and to] provide qualified undocumented individuals with a path toward conditional permanent residency.” People who would be eligible include individuals who “are between the ages of 12 and 35 at the time the policy is enacted; arrived in the US before the age of 16; lived in the US continuously for at least five years; have good academic standing and performance; have graduated from a US high school or received a GED (high school diploma equivalency credential); have no criminal record; and have good moral character” (Mahatmya and Gring-Pemble, 2014, p. 80). After passing all of these requirements, an applicant would become a conditional resident (“A Brief History”). If their moral character is maintained and an applicant either gets a college degree, serves in the military for two years, or is honorably discharged from the military, then permanent residency can then be obtained after a six year period (“A Brief History”). According to Durbin, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), was introduced by President Obama as a way to temporarily give undocumented children a sense of relief when the DREAM Act was not getting passed. It protected people from being deported for two years at a time if they complied with the above actions, paid a fee, and came forward, willing to participate (Durbin, 2017). Since then, America has been able to utilize them for their military service and academic potential, gaining over 20,000 new teachers, and a large amount of working students (Durbin, 2017). However, the Trump Administration has made the executive order to end DACA, therefore putting tens of thousands of innocent youths in jeopardy and fear of deportation (Durbin, 2017).

Psychological impacts of possible deportation

Richelle S Swan obtained a PhD in criminology, law, and society from University of California, Irvine. Marisol Clark-Ibanez is the Faculty Director of the National Latino Research Center, and a coordinator of Education without Borders. According to a publication entitled “Perceptions of shifting legal ground: DACA and the legal consciousness of undocumented students and graduates”, which was written for the Thomas Jefferson Law Review in Spring 2017, a common thread among these youths is that they are unaware of their status as an illegal immigrant until they reach the college application process (Swan and Clark-Ibanez, 2017). Undocumented immigrants often “go through a stage in which they are shielded from the stigma that accompanies their undocumented status” and they experience a shift in legal consciousness (Swan and Clark-Ibanez, 2017). Legal consciousness is a term describing the extent of how aware of the law people are at all times (Swan and Clark-Ibanez, 2017). While normal people typically have a subtle awareness of the law until it becomes particularly relevant in a certain instance, such as after receiving a parking ticket or being called for jury duty, undocumented youths find their consciousness constantly increasing due to fear of legal punishment (Swan and Clark-Ibanez). This increasing fear can lead to many mental health issues in the future.

According to the American Psychological Association, there are stressful situations that undocumented children go through, such as living in fear of deportation, separation from beloved family members, and a lack of opportunity. These can cause a plethora of mental health issues such as depression, social isolation, a lack of a sense of belonging, disrupted eating and sleeping patterns, post-traumatic stress disorder, difficulty forming relationships, difficulties at school, and suicidal thoughts or actions (American Psychological Association, 2013). In addition, many illegal immigrants may have trouble finding employment in the future. Adriana Kugler and Patrick Oakford (2015) stated that “all American workers are harmed by the nation’s dysfunctional immigration policies... [because they undermine] the employment protections of immigrants.” This is because employers are not allowed to knowingly hire illegal immigrants, so employees have limited freedoms and are often unable to realize their labor rights (Kugler and Oakford, 2015).

The importance of the issue

There are currently about 11,700,000 illegal immigrants in the United States, about 8,300,000 of which are employed (Kantamneni, et. al. 2016 p. 317). This proves that many of them are indeed making a living and earning money, and in turn spending the money to boost the local economy. In addition, among all foreign-born immigrants aged over 25 years old, only 17.1% obtained a bachelor’s degree and only 13.6% obtained a postgraduate degree (Lopez and Radford, 2017). The ability of undocumented students to attend college is hindered by difficulties such as lack of access to financial aid, inability to get a driver’s license, and hardships with employment (Kantamneni, et. al. 2016 p. 319).

In addition, the United States Census Bureau (USCB) of 2015 stated that on average, 33% of all adults had a bachelor’s degree while 12% had a postgraduate degree. This shows a 16% difference between foreign born and the total population obtaining a bachelor’s degree. However, 1% more foreign borns obtained a postgraduate degree than the total population (USCB, 2015). This may show that when given the opportunity, more foreign born adults are willing to pursue higher education. In addition, 93.3% of people with a Non-Hispanic/White origin obtained a high school graduation or more, while only 66.6% of people with a Hispanic origin achieved the same milestone (USCB, 2015). This means that in general,

education rates of immigrants are significantly less than that of native borns. The rates of undocumented immigrants that go on to complete high school and higher education are even lower due to added obstacles, such as the inability to finance college, which may stem from the inability to legally get a job. This topic applies to a large number of people and therefore must be pursued.

Despite the years spent debating the issue of the DREAM Act and the possible impacts it could leave on American society, a permanent compromise has never been made. While temporary solutions have surfaced, neither side of the issue was satisfied with its results. However, I plan to create a possible compromise and gain a new understanding of current migration legislation and conditions by analyzing the ways in which foreign countries have dealt with similar problems. There is a gap in DREAM Act policy and legislation because no permanent compromise has been reached. The research question is “In what ways can the United States learn from other countries in order to develop an effective DREAM Act policy that would receive stronger bipartisan support?”

Method and Approach

In an effort to reach my conclusion, the research method I chose to implement is examining and analyzing case studies. Case studies are used to investigate specific trends in real world situations. By examining case studies, I can analyze what has already happened and what is currently happening in other countries. Thus, I can apply my findings to the United States in order to find a possible compromise for the DREAM Act.

The purpose of this study is to determine a possible compromise that can be made that would allow the DREAM Act to be successfully passed. By studying other countries and their policies for undocumented immigrants as well as United Nations suggestions, I plan to obtain a new understanding of the DREAM Act and use this to suggest policies that should be implemented in the United States.

I used the textbook *The Cultural Landscape: An Introduction to Human Geography* by James M. Rubenstein to determine which regions contain a large flow of migrants. Rubenstein (2014) wrote that globally, the three largest flows of migration occur from Asia to Europe, from Asia to North America, and from Latin America to North America. This allowed me to get an idea of which countries to choose and provide criteria for me to consider. I decided to choose countries in Europe that had already encountered large problems with undocumented immigrants so I could observe the ways in which their policies were effective and ineffective. The countries I chose to analyze were Italy and Greece.

In addition, I looked up policy suggestions outlined by the United Nations to analyze the international sentiment toward the topic as well as possible compromises that have already been made. There are many rules and suggestions that the United Nations has proposed and passed as international guidelines that are not accurately represented in United States legislation.

Limitations and Defense of Method

A main limitation of this method is that statistics of illegal immigration are difficult to accurately obtain due to the fact that it is a crime based on going undetected by the government. Therefore, rather than statistics, I am analyzing research studies that have already been conducted on other countries as well as actual foreign law and then applying what I discover to the United States. In addition, the total net population of the world is quickly increasing and means of transportation are getting more advanced, meaning that many statistics that compare migration rates over time may not account for these changes. However, economic conditions can show how countries are dealing with these changes. On the other

hand, there may be difficulties examining the actual effects of enacting certain policies without using a cause-and-effect method such as correlational research, which would analyze the economic and political conditions before and after a policy was enacted. However, his type of research was not used because there are many factors that could affect a country's current economic and political conditions that cannot be traced back to one specific policy.

By using other countries as examples to possibly model United States legislation after, this study can determine possible legislative actions the government can take in order to decrease the rate of illegal immigration while simultaneously creating better conditions for current residents, specifically illegal minors, in the United States. However, this research may have many drawbacks that must be addressed in order to ensure the most viable solution possible.

Another limitation is that the selection of countries used in the method do not completely replicate United States conditions. While they were specifically selected to be as relevant and similar to United States conditions, there may be differences that were unaccounted for. Because of the large size, population, and number of illegal immigrants residing in the United States, other countries' legislation may not be sufficient enough to account for the large amount of people. In addition, legislation from different countries can be difficult to find, so for certain conclusions to be reached, analyses must be conducted, which may leave room for personal bias. However, this bias is being addressed because all information will be backed up by concrete statistics and facts.

The method and approach that were created for this study are based on fact and statistics, rather than opinions. Due to the political nature of the DREAM Act topic, many people base their votes on opinions and conditions within the United States. By using carefully selected countries as case studies, the study can focus on actual legislation that has already been enacted as well as the current conditions in the country.

Case Studies and Analysis

Case Study: Illegal Immigration Law in Italy

Alessia Di Pascale (2002), a researcher in European Union Law at the University of Milan, stated that Italy passed a bill in 1997 that provided "a system of quotas to regulate entry" (p. 72). It provided the incentive that "foreigners who entered Italy lawfully are entitled to submit a request for a residence permit... within eight days of arrival in Italy" that would remain valid for three months in the case of tourism and business or two years in the case of job opportunities and family unification (Di Pascale, 2002 p. 73). This law also created stricter measures for "criminal organisations and employers who exploit the illegal entry and residence of foreigners" (Di Pascale, 2002 p. 73). This helped removed some of the incentives that people had to migrate to Italy illegally in the first place. By placing fault on legal residents that help people illegally cross the border, Italy also removed a common means of arriving into the country in the first place (Di Pascale, 2002 p. 73).

In regards to children and minors, the law relies "upon international conventions relating to the protection of children" and insists upon the "protection of family life" (Di Pascale, 2002 p. 74-75). Rima Al-Azar (2006), a Regional Director for Transparency International wrote that undocumented immigrants in Italy are given basic rights such as healthcare and education and may obtain an anonymous public health card if they pay the normal fees for it due to a 2002 reform. In addition, "education is not only free, but also compulsory" (Al-Azar, 2006). While most countries attempt to keep illegal immigrants

away by taking away access to welfare programs, Al-Azar (2006) claims that countries should work together to transfer these benefits.

Case Study: Illegal Immigration Law in Greece

In order to accommodate for the large influx of migrants to the European Union, “hotspots were established in Greece and Italy for the purpose of registering and fingerprinting all migrants who entered the country illegally” (Gattiker, 2017 p. 12). This was technically successful as it allowed some asylum seekers that illegally immigrated to be relocated to other European countries that were not receiving as many immigrants (Gattiker, 2017 p.12). However, Greece and Italy were still two of the three countries that “reported a double-digit percentage increase in the number of incoming asylum applications in 2016” which placed a heavy stress on their economies (Gattiker, 2017 p. 12).

In the recent decades, Greece has received about 1,300,000 new immigrants, 390,000 of which were undocumented (Figgou, 2016 p. 153). Alexander Sarris and Stavros Zografakis (1999) stated that the “large increase in the labour force has coincided with a general slowdown in economic activity in Greece, and an increase in unemployment, which has slowly increased to over 10 percent... with no sign of decline” (as cited in Sarris and Zografakis, 1999 p. 156). This may be because at first, Greece had a general lack of immigration policy, but eventually adopted a strict policy of *jus sanguinis* in 1998, (Figgou, 2016 p. 153). These policies enacted a tradition that stressed citizenship by descent, rather than the United States policy of citizenship by birth, and “rendered citizenship acquisition by those who are not of ethnic Greek lineage amongst the most restrictive in Europe” (Figgou, 2016 p. 153). However, this quickly changed in 2009 when a new immigration bill entitled *Contemporary provisions for Greek Citizenship and the political participation of co-ethnics and legally residing immigrants*, was introduced, a *jus soli* policy was adopted and it “provided for citizenship by immigrant children born in Greece (on the condition that their parents had completed 5 years of legal residence in the country)” (Figgou, 2016 p. 153). Then, in 2012, this law was overturned, but not without causing its fair share of damage (Figgou, 2016 p. 153). In 2009, shortly after Greece adopted a citizenship-by-birth policy, it also fell into a deep recession “which pushed large groups of society into uncertainty and poverty” and anti-immigration sentiment was strengthened severely (Figgou, 2016 p. 154). This proves that the economic problems regarding immigration in the United States could possibly stem from an immigration policy that allows citizenship to be provided too easily.

United Nations suggestions and policies

The United Nations General Assembly is able to make recommendations to international countries as well as initiate actions in order to “reach specific goals to attain peace, security and disarmament along with development and poverty eradication; to safeguard human rights and promote the rule of law; to protect [the] common environment; to meet the special needs of Africa; and to strengthen the United Nations” (United Nations, n.d.). The United Nations recommended that “states treat undocumented children in the same way as ‘all’ children, without distinction” (Attard, 2014). However, they do understand that this does not always work out well in real life situations due to tensions between immigration control and child protection (Attard, 2014). The Official Journal of the European union stated that The European Economic and Social Committee EESC believed that “the best interests of the child should take precedence over all other national and international law” (Attard 2015). This means that minors are identified as children first, and possible labels as undocumented come secondary to safety and wellbeing. Due to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, “child-friendly reception conditions... should be ensured for all migrant children or children in an irregular migration situation, whether undocumented or documented, even in the case of intra-European migration” (Attard, 2014). Article 28 of

the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child suggested that in the name of equal opportunity, children have the right to an education and nations should follow the following conditions: primary education should be required by law and free to all; secondary education must be encouraged, available, and accessible to every child, and financial aid should be offered; higher educations should be accessible by appropriate means; educational guidance should be available and accessible; and governments should “take measures to encourage regular attendance at schools and the reduction of drop-out rates” (United States, 1989). States should prioritize “contributing to the elimination of ignorance and illiteracy throughout the world and facilitating access to scientific and technical knowledge and modern teaching methods” (United States 1989 p. 28). This means that education should be held to a high esteem whether it is for natives, foreigners, citizens, or undocumented immigrants because progress for anybody can eventually lead to progress for all. Due to the “Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights... everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status” and children are “entitled to special care and assistance” (United States, 1989). In addition, a child “should grow up in a family environment...[and] be fully prepared to live an individual life in society” (United States, 1989). They should be brought up in the spirit of the ideals proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations, and in particular in the spirit of “peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom, equality and solidarity” (United States, 1989).

Discussion

One way to find a compromise to the DREAM Act is to add a few more provisions and conditions that are somewhat unrelated to the education aspect of the act. This will allow the act to function better in regards to the economy because it will decrease the amount of people who will benefit from the act in the future. In order to reach a compromise, current residents of the United States who are eligible for the DREAM Act should be able to obtain their rightful educations with no additional hassle. This would allow the suggestions of the United Nations to come into fruition. However, to prevent any possible negative effects on the economy a tighter control on citizenship requirements should be established.

This can be done through implementing a citizenship by a descent-only policy similar to that of Greece that would stop immigrants from illegally coming into the United States to give birth to a future citizen, then remaining within the country. However, with a push toward this direction, current illegal immigrants, specifically minors, would have a chance to obtain an education and live normal lives while simultaneously, the amount of illegal immigrants would start to decrease. If incentives are removed from the reasons people want to illegally migrate to the United States, then less people would attempt to enter or arrive within legal means and overstay into illegal residency. By removing its citizenship-by-birth policy, the United States can effectively remove incentives without damaging any lives of the current population, and would only restrict the incoming population of undocumented immigrants.

By restricting the future population and helping the current population of illegal immigrants, the United States can maximize the benefits for both the individual as well as the whole. By providing an education for those who have already come into the United States illegally as children, the government can emphasize progress through academics. This highlights the United Nations belief that countries must prioritize the worldwide eradication of illiteracy and ignorance. In addition, the children who had no option or say in their migration status can still benefit from the sacrifices their parents made in an attempt to establish a higher standard of living for the child. The flow of undocumented immigrants may be nearly impossible to stop; however, with these added measurements, current undocumented minors can

have the opportunity to fulfill their full academic potential and the future population of undocumented minors would decrease. If the goal of humanity is progress, then by helping a few people achieve more, society as a whole can benefit.

Conclusion

Possible Limitations of the Solution

A possible limitation of the solution is that it may take time to see results because it would not punish the current undocumented population, but rather better regulate the future undocumented population. In addition, it may not specifically reduce the amount of undocumented children in the United States. However, it will reduce the overall amount of undocumented immigrants as a whole, while simultaneously allowing current undocumented children obtain their educations with minimal obstacles.

Possible Implications

Some possible implications of this research is that it could affect current DREAM Act policies and inspire further immigration reform. The idea of citizenship by descent is not typically seen in everyday media sources, therefore preventing the public from pursuing it as a part of legislation that should be passed. With the passing of a version of the DREAM Act, there would be millions of undocumented students who would be able to pursue an education, possibly lowering crime rates, dropout rates, and mental illness. However, in the future, this number could decrease along with the number of incentives for illegal immigration that the United States provides. In addition, more people would be provided with an academic background, and therefore more people would be able to contribute to technological and academic progress for humanity in the future. Also, more families would be able to remain intact and the economy could flourish with the addition of more people who contribute to society.

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