

Peralta Community College District
California DREAM Act Resolution 10/11-57

Whereas, the California DREAM Act, authored by California State Senator Gil Cedillo and first introduced in 2006, would allow qualifying undocumented college students to apply for institutional financial aid and Cal Grants from the University of California, California State University and Community Colleges; and

Whereas, the California DREAM Act passed both houses of the state legislature in 2010 but was vetoed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on 30 September 2010; and

Whereas, the California DREAM Act (Assembly Bill 130 and Assembly Bill 131) was reintroduced by Assemblymember Cedillo on January 11, 2011; and

Whereas, each year approximately 65,000 undocumented students graduate from high schools across the nation, approximately 40 percent of those undocumented youth reside in the state of California, and untold numbers graduate from East Bay high schools in Peralta's service area; and

Whereas, many of these graduates are honor students, promising athletes, student body presidents, community leaders and aspiring professionals; and

Whereby even more of these students would be encouraged to succeed in high school and to graduate if they knew there was a pathway to college for them; and

Whereas, because of their immigration status many are unable to access higher education; and

Whereas, many undocumented student already qualify for in-State tuition and the California Supreme Court upheld in-State tuition for undocumented students against constitutional and federal preemption challenges in its November 15 ruling in *Martinez vs. The University of California*, and

Whereas, Assembly Bill 130 would make education more accessible to AB540 students and AB 131 would allow AB 540 students access to financial aid in order to attend CA's State Universities and the University of California system; and

Whereas, the CA Dream Act has gained support from large segments of the business, labor, civic and educational communities, including: the California Federation of Teachers, the Los Angeles City Council, the California State Student Association, the University of California, the Los Angeles Unified School District, several newspapers, such as the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Sacramento Bee*, and several chambers of commerce, among them the Greater Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; and

Whereas the economic projections for the state of California suggest that by 2025, two of every five jobs will require a college graduate; and

Whereas, among the important goals of the Peralta Community College District is to promote student access, equity and success for all California students in our service;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Peralta Community College District urges the immediate passage and signature into law of the Assembly Bill 130 which will make existing AB 540 students eligible for a Board of Governors Waiver (BOGW) and

Therefore, be it further resolved that the Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor of the District to communicate this resolution of support to the Governor, the East Bay's California legislative delegation, and the (co)authors of the legislation bills and to mobilize its lobbying resources in Sacramento to press for the passage and signature into law of the California DREAM Act and related Assembly Bills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by a unanimous vote of the Governing Board, unless the meeting minutes reflect otherwise, on this 15th day of February, 2011.

Wise E. Allen
Chancellor and Secretary
to the Governing Board