

Fairfax County Democratic Committee Resolution Supporting In-State Tuition for Virginia College Students Protected by Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals

Whereas Virginia college students do not now qualify for in-state tuition if they immigrated to the United States unlawfully, even if they were brought to this country as children;

Whereas in the past such Virginia college students did qualify for in-state tuition if they met the other requirements for doing so;

Whereas President Barack Obama has announced that his administration would stop deporting certain young people who immigrated to the United States unlawfully and instead grant them temporary work authorization and two years reprieve from deportation (subject to renewal) in a program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals;

Whereas the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program requires people to meet the following requirements to be eligible: (1) be under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012, (2), come to the United States before reaching their 16th birthday, (3) reside in the United States continuously from 2007 until now, (4) be physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and now, (5) be without lawful immigration status as of June 15, 2012, (6) be currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or be an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States, and (7) not be convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety;

Whereas the Obama administration has granted deferred action to approximately 150,000 eligible young immigrants nationwide as of mid-January, out of an estimated 1.4 million young immigrants potentially eligible for the program;

Whereas Delegate Kaye Kory has introduced a bill in the Virginia Legislature to allow college students who live in Virginia to qualify for in-state tuition if they immigrated to the United States unlawfully but they: (a) have graduated from a high school, received a General Education Development (GED) certificate, or been homeschooled in Virginia, (b) have lived in Virginia for at least one year and (c) have been approved for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security;

It is resolved: that the Fairfax County Democratic Committee commends Delegate Kory for introducing her bill and strongly supports its passage.