

To Whom This May Concern:

Allow me to introduce myself my name is Jessica Jasso. I come from a family of undocumented parents who never received an education, yet somehow managed to bring up a woman who has dedicated her life to pursue one. My passion is to help people who desire to become something in life and contribute in a positive way to this wonderful Country. I believe to have that in common and there for I am asking for your help to make a difference in the life of the kid in the back of that history class, who sits in silence because he feels he is incompetent, irrelevant, and an outcast.

I was that kid. I was also the sister, the friend, and the cousin of that kid and now I want to become his teacher. My whole life I have been discriminated against because I'm not white, because I'm not Mexican. But as Hannah Montana says, "I have the best of both worlds" I'm actually fortunately or unfortunately, Mexican-American. I have a green card, the card that opens the door to the land of the brave and the home of the free. But our youth currently faces the consequences of the fine print that states if your parents enter illegally you do not have access to any of it. I know and I understand the pain of a person who comes into a country with no understanding of the culture or language, the person who works two jobs because their family is barely making it. Only ten percent of Hispanic high school graduates go on to some form of college and I don't want him to be another statistic.

I chose to not follow the path of illiteracy but I did not choose to be the only one in my entire family to have been born an American Citizen. I cannot help but wonder, had I not been born on American soil, would I have tried as hard to pursue an education and with it, a better life. All three of my sisters graduated high school but two out of the three are stay at home mothers living off of minimum wage. They never tried in school because there was no point, a common view shared by many undocumented students. My best friend on the other hand did everything in her power to succeed in school, she got a job at the age of 15 and saved up for the day she would attend Kansas State University. She is currently paying for tuition on her own for she cannot receive financial aid, yet she cries herself to sleep with the realization that without a green card, she might never find a job and all her effort would have been useless.

If instate tuition is denied for immigrant students, you will be denying them the right to be successful. How will hard working people like my best friend ever obtain an education? What is it that we are trying to do here? How will we ever achieve social justice if we kick those who are already down? That does not sound like the country I pledge allegiance to every morning with my students. How can I look at the immigrant students sitting in my classroom and expect them to try knowing what his or her future is like? Just today, I spoke to one of my Latino students, I urged him to look at the glass half full. However, seeing that an anti immigrant bill that is now in play, I see this glass emptier every second that goes by. Be the country that I and many other patriots raised in Kansas, pledge allegiance to.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Jasso

**Kansas State University- League of United Latin American Citizens "All For One and One For All"**