

March 18, 2013

Reverend Larry Keller  
16102 W 124 Terrace  
Olathe, KS 66062

Dear Senators and Representatives:

As a United Methodist Pastor, I am writing this letter as a strong endorsement for maintaining in state tuition for undocumented students who meet the in state requirements that are presently mandated. The Church I serve presently has an intern who went through College and Seminary while being undocumented. He is presently serving God and the people of Kansas in ways that are spiritually meaningful and helpful. This is possible because he was able to further his education. In state tuition presently helps many students to later serve to the best of their abilities.

I have personally met quite a few of the students who have been helped by this benefit and have been impressed by how these students are hard-working and goal oriented, with high academic standing in spite of the many obstacles they have faced in their young lives. Historically, as a country, we can see how first generation immigrants add greatly to our country if given the opportunity to use their talents for the common good. For many of these students this is the only country they remember since they were brought over here at a young age. It is their beloved state and country!

I will remind your that federal law does not prohibit our state from providing in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants. Such a prohibition would have been simple to write, but Congress declined to do so. I hope you will not put any roadblocks in the way of these hundreds of students whose only goal is to some day be good citizens who contribute their talents for the good of our society.

It has been said, "Education quickly pays for itself. It is a benefit to society, not just to those who go to school. And it strongly behooves us to fund education sufficiently so that all who qualify may complete their education." Let us do what is right for our state in the long run instead of being bullied by a small group of negative people and allow these young people to fulfill their God given potential and dreams.

Most Sincerely,

Reverend Larry Keller