

## 2011-J3513

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION urging the New York State Congressional delegation to enact the federal DREAM Act

WHEREAS, The federal DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) is a bipartisan legislation that would permit certain students conditional legal stay and eventual citizenship granted that they meet all of the following requirements: if they were brought to the United States before they turned 16, are below the age of 35; have lived here continuously for five years; graduated from a U.S. high school or obtained a GED; have a good moral character with no criminal record; and attend college or enlist in the military; and

WHEREAS, The DREAM Act is a legislative proposal first introduced in the Senate on August 1, 2001, and most recently reintroduced there on May 11, 2011; and

WHEREAS, In a December 2010 report, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that the DREAM Act would reduce deficits by about \$1.4 billion over the 2011-2020 period and increase government revenues by \$2.3 billion over the next 10 years; and

WHEREAS, A recent UCLA study estimates that between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion in taxable income would be generated for the economy over a 40 year period based upon estimates ranging between \$825,000 and \$2.1 million, potential DREAM Act beneficiaries successfully obtaining resident status through the legislation; and

WHEREAS, Immigrants come to the United States of America with a strong work ethic and the hope of improving their quality of life, as well as assuring their families' future; and

WHEREAS, This strong work ethic benefits the communities they live in and our nation as a whole by successfully fulfilling employment positions which are often difficult to fill; and

WHEREAS, The United States has prided itself on being a melting pot for the many cultures that make up our global community; America has always embraced the multitude of cultural gifts and traditions immigrants have brought with them to our beloved nation; and

WHEREAS, We are a nation that welcomes the freedoms and opportunities

which the Statue of Liberty represents; and

WHEREAS, In this ever expanding globalized economy, we must do all we can to cultivate the intellectual capital residing in our nation by providing our youth with financial assistance towards a higher education and the opportunity to fulfill the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, By enacting the DREAM Act, this legislation would liberate immigrants from the fear of deportation to their former countries; furthermore, it will provide them with a process by which they could become United States citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the New York State Congressional delegation be and hereby is respectfully memorialized by this Legislative Body to enact the federal DREAM Act; and be it further

RESOLVED, That copies of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to each member of the Congressional delegation from the State of New York.