

In-State Tuition for Dreamers Would Make Georgia Stronger

Barriers to higher education for Dreamers hurt Georgia's economy

Tens of thousands of Dreamers call Georgia home and have lived the majority of their lives in the state. They should be eligible for the same in-state tuition rates as other individuals who have established residency.

At least 21 states have extended in-state tuition rates to undocumented students who reside in the state, but Georgia is lagging behind - and the high cost of out-of-state tuition is a major factor discouraging Georgia Dreamers from attending college, hurting the state's economic competitiveness.

IMMIGRANT ESSENTIAL WORKERS - INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF DREAMERS - ARE VITAL TO GEORGIA'S CONTINUED RECOVERY FROM COVID-19

Immigrant essential workers in Georgia are absolutely vital to our state's continued recovery from COVID-19. Some 560,000 immigrants in Georgia work in essential industries, 170,000 of whom are undocumented - including 30,000 essential workers who are Dreamers.

Every one of them has helped contribute to keeping all Georgians healthy and safe through the ongoing COVID-19 public health and economic crisis. Undocumented essential workers have risked their personal health and safety, as well as that of their families, in working to provide essential services - all without sufficient protection from our government. More than two-thirds of all undocumented immigrant workers work frontline jobs in essential industries, a considerably higher share than other immigrant groups, or individuals born in the U.S.

Critical to Georgia's - and the U.S.' - recovery is a new immigration plan with a commitment to keep families together and safe. No economic recovery is possible without the contributions of immigrants. It is a moral and economic imperative to ensure immigrant essential workers on the frontline have stability and legal protection.

- Of all immigrant workers in Georgia, 53% work in frontline essential jobs, which means they are directly exposed to the virus while carrying out their duties. For undocumented immigrants in the state, that share rises to 69%.
- Most undocumented immigrant essential workers have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade, live with U.S. citizen family members (including nearly 4 million U.S. citizen children), and are financially stable. They have built their lives here.
- Undocumented immigrants in Georgia working in essential industries are well integrated in our communities, with 71% living in the United State for more than 10 years, and 46% owning their own homes.

Georgians with a college degree earn twice as much as those without one, and are two times less likely to be unemployed.

20,640

Number of DACA recipients in Georgia

5,000+

Number of college graduates added to the workforce if Georgia Dreamers are granted in-state tuition

\$747.5 million

Spending power of Georgia DACA Recipients

\$92.5 million

Annual contribution of state and local taxes paid by DACA recipients in Georgia

\$10 million

Annual increase to state and local taxes if Georgia expands higher education opportunities for Dreamers

WHEN DREAMERS CAN'T AFFORD COLLEGE IN GEORGIA, THEY TAKE THEIR TALENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OTHER STATES.

As of 2020, DACA has allowed more than 20,000 Dreamers in Georgia to come forward, pass a background check, and work legally in the United States. And in 2018, Georgia DACA recipients had an annual spending power of nearly \$750 million. Expanding access to higher education would boost this figure and ensure more Georgians are prepared to enter the workforce.

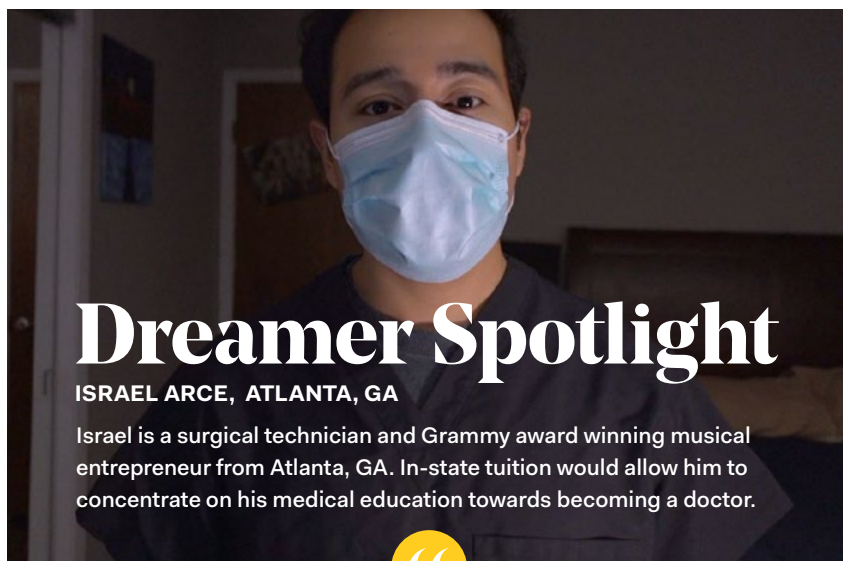
IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS MEANS HIGHER EARNINGS AND LOWER UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Almost 90% of Georgia Dreamers are either high school graduates or enrolled in high school; Georgia's economy would benefit from the large number of Dreamers who are on track to attend college being able to do so, and in turn enter the workforce. A more highly-skilled and higher-earning workforce could increase state and local tax earnings by an additional \$10 million annually.

Georgia's undocumented population contributes more than \$344 million annually in state and local taxes, with Dreamers contributing \$92.5 million - more than a quarter of this amount. Simply put, expanding higher education opportunities for Dreamers is great for hardworking young Georgians, and great for our state's economy as a whole.

GEORGIA'S FAILURE TO OFFER IN-STATE TUITION FOR DREAMERS WEAKENS ITS WORKFORCE

When Georgia makes it more difficult for its Dreamers to continue their education, the state only hurts its economy, stifling innovation and growth.



Dreamer Spotlight

ISRAEL ARCE, ATLANTA, GA

Israel is a surgical technician and Grammy award winning musical entrepreneur from Atlanta, GA. In-state tuition would allow him to concentrate on his medical education towards becoming a doctor.



"My dream is to become a doctor right here in the place that I call home. Out-of-state tuition has put that on hold. I'm hopeful that good legislation can put Dreamers like me back on track to help our communities."

– ISRAEL ARCE

Instead of keeping the best and brightest minds in the state and contributing to our economy, many Georgia Dreamers may seek out educational opportunities elsewhere—taking their talents out of the state with them.



"By 2025, 60% of Georgia jobs will require a post-secondary level education with higher skills than currently exist. The Georgia Chamber supports [tuition equity efforts] that will increase the number of students accessing higher education, building a new Georgia economy talent pool for long term economic mobility, empowerment and prosperity"

– CHRIS CLARK
CEO, GA Chamber of Commerce

\$10,810

Denying access to in-state tuition negates investments made to Dreamers in earlier K-12 education; between the federal, state, and local governments, **taxpayers spend \$10,810 per student every year in Georgia.**

\$10 million

Georgia loses out on an estimated **\$10 million in tax revenue per year**, simply by barring academically-prepared Dreamers from accessing in-state tuition rates.

Georgia's economy

The failure to provide in-state tuition for Dreamers is preventing hard working young people from achieving their full potential, and holding Georgia's economy back from additional job creation and growth.