

## **AB 206 (Stone/Medina): CA DREAM Work-Study Program**

### **SUMMARY**

AB 206 addresses an inequity in access to work study grants for a segment of students attending the University of California (UC) or California State University. The bill establishes the California DREAM Work-Study program which provides need based work-study grants to AB 540 students on par with other eligible students at UC and CSU.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Federal Work-Study (FWS) Program provides grants for part-time work for undergraduate and graduate students with financial need, allowing them to help defray their educational costs, while gaining valuable work experience related to their field of study or educationally beneficial environments. Work-Study job placements can be on the campus the student is attending or off-campus, with either a private or non-profit employer.

A key benefit of the work-study program lies in the employer contributions to the work-study grants that extend the reach and effectiveness of limited government funded financial aid dollars. Coupled with a focus on self-reliance and the development of necessary workplace skills, the benefits of work-study go far beyond the immediate need for financial aid for the student.

### **PROBLEM**

Our state has made great progress in ensuring equal access to opportunity in higher education for undocumented students. Since the passage of AB 540 in 2001, the California DREAM Act (AB 130 and AB 131 of 2011) and the recently enacted California DREAM Loan Program have made financial aid, and the promise of everything that higher education in California has to offer, accessible to undocumented students in a very meaningful way.

While the state legislature has made the issue of equity for undocumented students a priority, unfortunately, Congress has stalled on the issue. While President Obama and former Secretary Napolitano have

established Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which grants a work permit to unauthorized immigrants that meet certain conditions, AB 540 students are still denied access to the Federal Work-Study Program.

Some UC campuses have been able to develop institutional work-study grants for AB 540 students beginning in fall 2014, but they lack a stable funding source moving forward and the future of these grants is very uncertain.

### **EXISTING POLICY**

AB 540 (2001): Qualifies long-term California residents, as defined, for in-state tuition at Community Colleges and CSU (UC adopted similar provisions).

AB 130 and AB 131 (2011): The California DREAM Act allows AB 540 attending public universities to be eligible for financial aid administered by the institutions.

SB 1210 (2014): Establishes the CA DREAM Loan Program for AB 540 students with established need.

President Obama and former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano, in June 2012, directed the establishment of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) which grants work permits for unauthorized immigrants.

### **SOLUTION**

AB 206 establishes the California DREAM Work-Study Program which provides 100% of funds for work-study grants for students employed by a UC, CSU or public school district, and 50% of funds for job placements with other private and non-profit employers.

### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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