

## **Expand Educational Opportunities, Not Limit Them Vote NO on HB1463**

Dear Legislator,

**HB1463** discourages, rather than boosts, the social and economic development of Missouri. Missouri should be expanding higher education opportunities for all students, not limiting them. We urge our representatives to know the facts before casting a vote. Then vote **NO** on HB 1463 which limit access to education for some immigrant students.

The facts are:

- ❖ The higher education of undocumented immigrants is not supported by Missouri tax dollars. Currently, if students without documentation are attending college or university, they are paying out-of-state tuition and receiving no state or federal financial aid, including loans.
- ❖ Students may be working to legalize their status while they attend college or university. So, when they graduate, they may be work eligible, or they may be more employable to someone willing to provide them a legal route to work in the U.S.
- ❖ This proposed law affects students who were brought here, often at a young age, by their parents. They do not have another home. They will not leave our state because they are barred from higher education. These are people who live in our community and will continue to live in our community.
- ❖ The bill states that there is no fiscal note and that Universities will “absorb” the cost of implementing this bill. At this time, universities and colleges have not had the time to calculate the cost of checking on every students to determine if they are legally present in the state. Such costs could be substantial. Our public higher education institutions are already struggling with inadequate funding to provide quality education for their students.
- ❖ There is no federal law which precludes undocumented immigrant students from attending college or university. In fact, ten states currently have laws which require colleges and universities to charge in-state, rather than out-of-state tuition making higher education more accessible.

Several recent studies show that Missouri is not currently meeting the education demands of an idea-based economy in which technology is embedded in all economic sectors. Denying education to immigrant students means they will never contribute to the technological fields that need more workers in the region.

Providing access to college education for all our children is essential to the economic, social, and cultural future of our region.

We respectfully request our state legislature to create responsible policy which will so greatly affect the economics and workforce of the region.

**WE SAY NO to HB 1463**

**( ) I do not support barring undocumented immigrants from higher education**

**( ) Individual Support**

**( ) Organizational Support**

Organization name as you wish it to appear on endorser list:

\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person

\_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_

- I/We are willing to:
- ( ) call and ask our legislators to say no to HB1463
  - ( ) convene a local meeting or forum about this issue
  - ( ) identify people who will share their stories about the necessity of providing education to undocumented immigrants
  - ( ) provide testimony at a hearing

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return this endorsement form to: FOCUS St. Louis, 815 Olive Street, Suite 110, St. Louis, MO 63101, Fax: 314-622-1279.**

**Questions? Contact Nikki Weinstein at 314-622-1250 x102 or [nikkiw@focus-stl.org](mailto:nikkiw@focus-stl.org)**