United WE DREAM! Campaign  
Talking Points

**The Ask:**

- Support the DREAM Act (S.1545) and urge Senate leaders to schedule time for debate and vote this year. Immigrant students cannot continue to defer their dreams any longer. The DREAM Act must pass to allow immigrant students, who without fault, find themselves trapped in the web of a broken immigration system and without a chance to realize their dreams for an education.

**Background:**

- The United We DREAM! Campaign is comprised of immigrant rights, student, education and faith-based organizations advocating for the passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act, S.1545).

- The DREAM Act in the Senate and the Student Adjustment Act (H.R.1648) in the House are bipartisan bills that would remove barriers to education and provide a path toward legal residency for U.S.-raised immigrant students who lack legal immigration status. These bills provide a lifeline to immigrant students who without fault find themselves in limbo, with no hope of realizing their dreams for higher education.

- The DREAM Act was introduced by Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) in July; it passed the Senate Judiciary Committee on a 16-to-3 vote in October, and now has 42 Senators as co-sponsors. The bill now awaits action by Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN).

- The Senate Judiciary Committee debated and passed the DREAM Act out of committee on a 16-to-3 vote. The underlining principle of providing a pathway to legalization for immigrant students was a point of consensus. There was agreement in providing relief for students who now find themselves trapped in the broken immigration system. Both Republican and Democrat Senators in the Judiciary Committee recognized the need for changing our immigration laws so that bright, energetic, and motivated students could continue their path towards realizing their dreams.

- The next step in the legislative process is to ensure that the full Senate debate and vote on the DREAM Act. Leaders in the House of Representatives await the outcome on the Senate, and direction from the Bush Administration, to plan their own course of action.

- The basic structure of the DREAM Act, as reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee, would grant conditional status to immigrant student who meet the following criteria:
- have entered the U.S. before age 16
- have at least 5 years residency in the U.S.
- have good moral character
- have graduated high school in the U.S. or obtained a GED in the U.S.
  (Must list all schools attended in the U.S.)

And within 6 years of obtaining conditional status, DREAM students must complete either two years of university or community college or have served two years in the U.S. military before adjusting to legal permanent resident (LPR) status.