STATEMENT

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On behalf of New York University (NYU), I am writing in strong support of the New York DREAM Act. I commend members of the New York State Senate and Assembly who have introduced this legislation and I urge its passage.

NYU recognizes that New York City owes much of its growth and character to the contribution of immigrant communities and has always encouraged students of all ethnic and economic backgrounds to pursue a quality higher education. Expanding educational opportunities for children of immigrants not only helps individual students, it helps entire communities, states and the nation as a whole. Ensuring an educated and technologically literate workforce, encompassing both U.S. citizens and children of immigrants, is a key ingredient to ensure a growing economy.

As a longtime supporter of the national DREAM Act, I am disappointed that this legislation remains stalled in a divided Congress. Therefore, it is essential that New York State act quickly to give eligible immigrant students the opportunity to pursue the American dream. The NY DREAM Act represents common sense legislation that would give certain eligible students who grew up in the United States and graduated from high school a chance to contribute to the nation by pursuing a higher education.

In a rapidly expanding and interconnected global educational environment where students, faculty and ideas travel freely, it makes little sense to limit the ability of students to pursue a higher education in the country in which they have spent their entire lives. America has long prided itself on a place that rewards hard work and solid character. The NY DREAM Act epitomizes this sentiment and I urge the New York State Senate and Assembly to pass this legislation quickly.