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Student DREAM Act Testimony

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UDhe6et2pE>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cFZPuxf_-n4

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kpMIBguYWaE>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCy-bjyX4KY>

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You have received this eUpdate because you have expressed interest in ICO's work. If you want to be removed from this list, please email us at:

tom@greaterlongbeachico.org

ICO Joins National Effort to Pass Federal DREAM Act

For the past several months, ICO leaders have been making phone calls and sending emails to our U.S. Senators and Representatives urging passage of the DREAM Act, a bi-partisan bill now before Congress that would provide a path to permanent residency for young people who came to the United States as children, have been raised here, worked hard in school, and would like to pursue higher education or serve in the military.



Last month, ICO leaders were successful in getting the Long Beach city council to vote unanimously on a resolution that supports the DREAM Act and that would be sent along to our federal legislators through the City's legislative committee.

There are an estimated 1.8 million students in California who would be impacted by the DREAM Act. We need DREAM this year— Our youth are our future, and right now we're squandering their potential and promise. It's not right for these children, and it's not right for our country. We can and should do better.

While it is unclear whether the U.S. House or Senate will vote first, there is much negotiating underway on Capitol Hill. Already, the Senate has introduced a revised Dream Act that:

- Sets the cut-off age to individuals who are less than 30 years old on the date of enactment as opposed to the previous cut-off age of 35 years old: and,
- Creates a conditional nonimmigrant status for 10 years as opposed to the previous period of 6 years.

While these are adjustments that may exclude students, it is also a sign that we are getting closer to passing the DREAM Act. The House has 200 of the 218 votes needed and they are scrambling to align their version of the DREAM Act with the Senate version. Voting is expected to come up as early as this week.

Please take a moment and call or email your senator and representatives at tell them that you support the DREAM Act. You can call multiple representatives by dialing this number 1-866-996-5161. Additional resources are available at the [PICO website](#).

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ICO Leaders Meet with Long Beach Mayor Foster and Push for More City Action on Homelessness



ICO leaders from several congregations met with Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster last month and pressed for greater City involvement with the faith community to find and implement measures to alleviate homelessness.

ICO leaders have been engaged in the homelessness issue for several years, including: securing site control and funding for the West Side Project Impact transitional shelter; passing the Long Beach Housing Trust Fund and identifying a funding source in the City's Transit Occupancy Tax, or "Bed Tax"; and working on the City's 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness. More recently, ICO leaders have focused on strategies to implement the 10-Year Plan. The meeting with Mayor Foster was the latest step in this effort.

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ICO Leaders Travel to Chicago for Justice for Immigrants Conference



On November 3rd-5th, ICO leaders joined PICO National leaders and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in Chicago for a three-day conference on immigration reform. Leaders were able to share and learn from the experiences of

others from across the country. Leaders held a research action with high-ranking officials with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). This conference was a bridge building opportunity to link PICO with the USCCB campaign called [Justice for Immigrants](#), deepening our relationships and building power.

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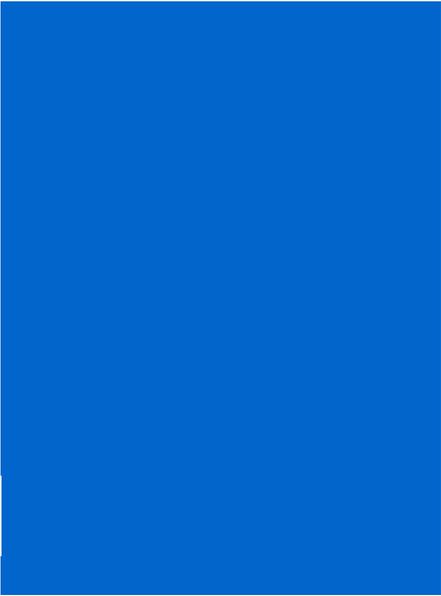
ICO Thanks 2010 Honor Roll of Givers

2010 was a tough year for nonprofits nationwide, and ICO was not immune from the effects of the economic recession. However, thanks to our many supporters across Long Beach, we were able to survive. 2011 promises to be similarly challenging and you will soon receive our holiday appeal in the mail. Please be generous.

However, we want to recognize those ICO leaders and supporters who helped us make it through. Thanks so much!!

Sylvia Risler
Sandra Kroll
Robert Hildebrand
Steve & Elizabeth Westbrook
Martha Evans
Josephine Castellanos

Dena Garcia
Jacqueline L. Carnevale
Darlene & Jeffrey L. Gidley
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