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November 16, 2010

RE: AILA Urges Passage of the DREAM Act and AgJOBS in the Lame Duck

Dear Senator,

As you return for the last work period of the 111th Congress this month, AILA respectfully urges you to pass S.729, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2009 (“DREAM Act”) and S.1038, Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2009 (“AgJOBS”). Whether as stand-alone measures or amendments to another bill, passage of the DREAM Act and AgJOBS during the lame duck session is vital and we ask you to make it a top priority.

#### **The DREAM Act**

The DREAM Act provides qualified undocumented students the opportunity to earn legal permanent status if they work hard, successfully complete educational or military requirements, and stay out of trouble. The DREAM Act would help young people who were brought to this country by their parents at an age where they had no say in the decision. Many have spent the majority of their lives in the United States and are now completely integrated into American society. They dream of becoming full-fledged Americans, but are prevented from doing so because they lack the necessary legal status. The DREAM Act would provide an avenue for these young people to acquire legal status, pursue a college degree or join the U.S. military, and give back to their communities and to the country they consider home.

The DREAM Act has enjoyed broad, bipartisan support since its original introduction in 2001, and it has passed out of the Judiciary Committee by overwhelming votes on two separate occasions, under both Republican and Democratic control. Members from both sides of the aisle have long recognized that this proposal is crafted in a fair and balanced manner. Americans believe in the concept of opportunity and this bill is about providing that opportunity to America’s children.

#### **AgJOBS**

AgJOBS would provide undocumented farmworkers the chance to earn legal immigration status by meeting stringent past and future agricultural-work requirements and immigration-law obligations. AgJOBS would also revise the H-2A agricultural guestworker program in a way that balances the interests of the labor community and employers. In this regard, AgJOBS represents a major compromise, carefully negotiated by the United Farm Workers and major agri-business companies. AgJOBS has the endorsement of not only labor and employers but also diverse groups including immigrant community leaders, civil rights organizations, and religious groups. Finally, it is a bipartisan bill that enjoys broad support in Congress.

The recent midterm elections sent a powerful message: Americans want their elected leaders to work together to solve the problems our country is facing. Passing the DREAM Act and AgJOBS would be a major step forward. Enactment of these measures will make our nation stronger and greatly improve the functioning of our immigration system to meet the needs of our country. AILA urges you to make the DREAM Act and AgJOBS “must-do” measures during this lame duck session of Congress.

If you have questions about specific provisions in the bill, please contact Greg Chen at 202/507-7615 or [gchen@aila.org](mailto:gchen@aila.org).

Sincerely,



David Leopold  
President



Gregory Chen  
Director of Advocacy



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Dear Representative,

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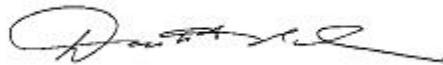
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