

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Rockville, Maryland

Resolution Number: 12-06-063
Adopted on: 6/28/2012

Agenda Item Number: 4
June 28, 2012

Subject: Support of the Policies of the Maryland Dream Act

WHEREAS, Montgomery College has long supported a policy of making all graduates of Montgomery County high schools eligible for local in-state tuition rates; and

WHEREAS, the College supports broader and easier access for all local students to higher education institutions than is provided by the Maryland Dream Act, the College nevertheless supports the Maryland Dream Act as a step in the right direction and as a foundation for additional access later; and

WHEREAS, the College and many respected community, government, religious, and advocacy groups leaders urged the passage and support the provisions of the Maryland Dream Act, now the subject of a referendum before the voters of Maryland in the upcoming general elections in November 2012; and

WHEREAS, there are many reasons for support of the Dream Act, including that it benefits both the students and the community by providing a valuable, better educated workforce, encouraging not only high school graduation but enabling higher education training at a tuition cost that is affordable and otherwise, without this Act, out of reach for most of these students; it leverages the public investment already made in these students in the K-12 school system, and; it costs the taxpayers and the College very little and, in fact, the College may actually lose money if these students were not eligible for the lowest rate of tuition; and

WHEREAS, the Dream Act will assist in meeting the need for trained workers for Montgomery County businesses and will support the county's economy; and

WHEREAS, the College supports the Dream Act as being consistent with its mission and statutory mandate of providing access to valuable higher education to all qualified students at a reasonable cost; and

WHEREAS, the president of the College recommends that the following action be taken; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of Montgomery College supports the implementation of the policies that support the Maryland Dream Act and requests that citizens consider carefully these policies in their votes in the November 2012 referendum on the Dream Act; and be it further

Resolved, That the president of the College is authorized to take such actions as are necessary and appropriate on behalf of the College to communicate the substance of this resolution to the members of the public.

DPP:abg

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MONTGOMERY COLLEGE**
Rockville, Maryland

Agenda Item Number: 4
June 28, 2012

SUPPORT OF THE POLICIES OF THE MARYLAND DREAM ACT

BACKGROUND

During the 2011 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly passed Senate Bill 167 known as the “Dream Act.” This bill, when signed by the Governor, became Chapter 394 of the 2011 Laws of Maryland. Thereafter, the Dream Act was successfully petitioned to voter referendum by opponents of its provisions in the summer of 2011 and will be placed on the November 2012 ballot (the first general election after petitions certification) by certification in mid-August of the ballot language by the State Board of Elections. Although the exact phrasing of the question for the voters is unknown at this time, it is clear that the College is in favor of the provisions of the Dream Act and would oppose its nullification by this referendum.

The Dream Act provides to undocumented students local in-state rates for tuition in Maryland community colleges (and four-year colleges with additional requirements), provided that the students can show attendance in a Maryland high school for at least three years, that their parents filed tax returns in Maryland during periods between attendance in high school and attendance at community college and that the students commit to legalizing status as soon as they are eligible. It is a confirmation and a slightly modified extension of a long observed policy of Montgomery College that granted all graduates of Montgomery County high schools local in-state tuition rates.

The Dream Act was supported by a variety of groups and public officials, including the Maryland Governor, the Montgomery County Executive and County Council, the Maryland State Education Association and dozens of other community, government, religious and advocacy groups in the state. It was also supported by the strong testimony of Montgomery College's president before the General Assembly, urging and supporting its passage.

There are many reasons for support of the Dream Act. The Act benefits both the students and the community by providing a valuable, better educated workforce, encouraging not only high school graduation but enabling higher education at a tuition cost that is affordable and otherwise, without this Act, out of reach for most of these students. It leverages the public investment already made in these students in the K-12 school system. Further, it is not a scholarship program and, according to an independent expert economist engaged by the College, Dr. David Breneman, the relatively few students involved do not cost substantial additional overhead and actually contribute tuition that would not be otherwise paid if they were assessed at the highest out-of-state rate. Accordingly, as expressed by Dr. Breneman, “...far from imposing additional taxes on Maryland and Montgomery County taxpayers, the Policy [essentially, the Dream Act] actually saves the taxpayers a great deal of money each year.”

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, as a public institution committed to access and education for all, the Dream Act is the “right thing to do” for the College.

RECOMMENDATION

Accordingly, it is recommended that the Board of Trustees adopt the attached resolution in support of the policy embodied in the Dream Act and in opposition to its nullification in the upcoming election vote.

BACK-UP INFORMATION

Board Resolution

RESPONSIBLE SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

Dr. Cain

RESOURCE PERSONS

Mr. Sorrell

Ms. Madden