



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

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February 25, 2021

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), I write to express our support for S 348, the “U.S. Citizenship Act.” Founded in 1937, NACAC is an organization of more than 15,000 professionals from around the world dedicated to serving students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education, including school counselors, college admission officers, and others who advise students on making the transition to college. NACAC is committed to maintaining high standards that foster ethical and social responsibility among those involved in the transition process.

The U.S. Citizenship Act would, among other provisions, provide a path to citizenship for students who were brought to this country as minors and who have completed their high school education, a proposal commonly known as the “DREAM Act.” For decades, NACAC has supported the DREAM Act to assist the tens of thousands of undocumented students who graduate from American high schools each year, yet are left with few, if any, postsecondary educational options because of an outdated and confusing provision in existing immigration law. Far too many years have passed without providing these students the opportunity they deserve. As Justice William Brennan concluded in the landmark *Plyler v. Doe* case that granted undocumented students access to K-12 public education, “[W]hatever savings might be achieved by denying these children an education, they are wholly insubstantial in light of the costs involved to these children, the State, and the Nation.”

Thank you for sponsoring this critical legislation. Please contact me at dhawkins@nacacnet.org if you would like more information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Hawkins", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Hawkins
Chief Education and Policy Officer

cc: New Jersey Association for College Admission Counseling