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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
51st District, California

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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC POLICY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA,
AND GLOBAL COUNTERTERRORISM

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger:

I am requesting funding for the "San Diego Community College District Dreamer Resource Centers" project in fiscal year 2023, in the amount of \$1,200,000. The entity to receive the funding is the San Diego Community College District, located at 3375 Camino Del Rio S., San Diego, CA 92108.

College-bound undocumented students with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) status are courageous, resilient, and resourceful. Dreamer Resource Centers provide holistic support for undocumented students, but not only for academic resources. These centers are one-stop-shops for legal services, health, matriculation, basic needs, textbook support, advocacy support, and ultimately, and probably most important, a safe space for undocumented students.

It is a good use of taxpayer funds because many DACA students are understandably cautious and need high-touch wrap-around supportive services to walk them through the steps to be successful in college. These steps include applying and registering for classes, financial aid, and general college and career readiness efforts. SDCCD proposes to establish a districtwide Dreamer Support Program (DSP) to coordinate community outreach and engagement activities, promote targeted support for students, and track academic success outcomes for undocumented students. Grant funds will be used to scale existing services available on the college campuses, further develop the Dreamer Resource Centers at City and Mesa Colleges, establish a Dreamer Resource Center at Miramar College, and provide cultural competency training to ensure that the campuses at-large are knowledgeable and equip to serve undocumented students, their families, and community members.

SDCCD will use its existing outreach structure to develop new partnerships with community organizations currently serving undocumented immigrants and expand outreach services at feeder high schools. These services will include college application workshops, assistance with completing the Dream Act application and AB540 affidavit, information about college resources, and assistance with completing important pre-enrollment steps (assessment, orientation, and education planning).

SDCCD will host an annual Undocumented Student Conference on one of the college campuses to demonstrate to the community that the campuses are welcoming and safe learning environments. The conference will be open to students, their families, and community members and will showcase programs and services available to undocumented students both on campus and in the community.

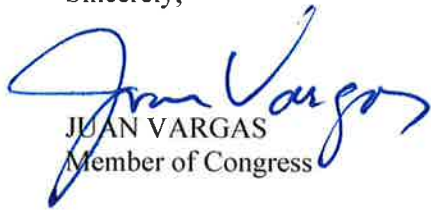
Through the Dreamer Resource Centers, faculty, staff, and students will be able to participate in the UndocuAlly Training for Educators. These trainings will be offered regularly each semester and will be promoted widely as an opportunity for participants to gain awareness on how to effectively serve undocumented students.

The Dreamer Resource Centers will serve as a central support hub on each campus for undocumented students and community members to inquire and receive information, resources, and referrals. The Resource Centers will be staffed with a program coordinator, counselors, and peer-mentors to guide students and community members in the process of applying to college, qualifying for AB540, completing the Dream Act application, accessing financial resources, and transferring to four-year universities. The Resource Centers will establish a book rental program, computer loan program, and provide printing services. In addition, the Resource Centers will offer undocumented students and community members access to free legal resources, regular updates on changes to immigration policies, referrals to low and no-cost legal services, as well as mental health and wellness services and referrals.

This project has received written support from Barrio Station, a local community organization in my district.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress