

10/9/2025

The Honorable Marion Rarick
Chair, Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives

Re: Opposition to HF 1323–Prohibiting State Financial Aid for Undocumented Minnesota Students

Dear Chair Rarick and Members,

On behalf of LatinoLEAD, we respectfully urge you to oppose HF1323, which would prohibit undocumented Minnesota residents from accessing state financial aid.

HF1323, which would prohibit undocumented Minnesota Dream Act and weakens the North Star Promise framework. These programs serve long-term Minnesota residents who attended our high schools and graduated here. This is a residency-based policy—not a special benefit.

Minnesota faces critical workforce shortages. The state will need 18,000 elementary and 14,000 secondary teachers in the coming decade, with shortages in 44 licensure areas, including bilingual education. Latino workers are one of the fastest-growing segments of Minnesota's labor force. Cutting off access to higher education shrinks the talent pipeline at the exact moment we need it most.

The fiscal impact is minimal. Last year 139 Dream Act students received North Star Promise awards totaling approximately \$383,000 and about 500 students received state financial aid overall. This is a modest investment that yields long-term tax revenue, workforce participation, and economic stability.

HF1323 does not save money—it limits degree attainment, increases workforce gaps, and wastes prior K-12 investments.

Minnesota has the constitutional authority to define residency for tuition and state financial aid purposes. We should not abandon our state's education framework or retreat from policies that strengthen our economy.

Sincerely,
Irma Márquez Trapero



Chief Executive Officer

