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2014

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States,
3 urging Congress to enact the Development, Relief, and
4 Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

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6 WHEREAS, the United States of America was founded as and
7 remains a nation of immigrants, and

8 WHEREAS, throughout the history of Florida, immigrants have
9 contributed greatly to the state's growth and development in
10 areas such as education, health, commerce, science, culture, and
11 the arts, and

12 WHEREAS, many of Florida's most important economic
13 activities, including international trade, international
14 investment, and tourism, rely upon the state's reputation in
15 other countries, and

16 WHEREAS, the United States has promoted the integration of
17 immigrants into American society throughout its history, and

18 WHEREAS, the current national legal system of immigration
19 has grown increasingly complex and dysfunctional, leaving an
20 estimated 2.1 million undocumented youth who currently reside in
21 the United States, approximately 151,000 of whom are growing up
22 in Florida, without the opportunity to pursue an education or to
23 otherwise contribute to American society, and

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24 WHEREAS, many of these undocumented youth entered the
25 country as young children and know only the United States as
26 their home, and

27 WHEREAS, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien
28 Minors (DREAM) Act would provide certain undocumented youth who
29 arrived in the United States as minors with a credible path to
30 legal residency by satisfying certain conditions, among them
31 graduating from high school, receiving a graduation equivalency
32 diploma (GED), and attending college or serving in the United
33 States Armed Forces, and

34 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would also provide a path to
35 citizenship upon the satisfaction of a number of conditions,
36 including the maintenance of good moral character and the
37 payment of fees, and

38 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act would repeal the current penalty for
39 states that provide in-state tuition for postsecondary education
40 students without regard to immigration status, and

41 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act will validate the significant public
42 support, including public education, that these youth have
43 received by creating a viable pathway to citizenship, and

44 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act will promote a sustainable economy
45 for the United States by providing corporate and government
46 entities, including educational institutions and health care
47 organizations, with a highly educated workforce and military and

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48 by providing a multilingual workforce to compete in an
49 increasingly globalized economy, and

50 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act, by some estimates, could provide
51 the national economy with a population that generates between
52 \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion in income over a 40-year period,
53 with benefits to Floridians including increases in workforce
54 productivity, business income, and state revenue, and

55 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act has been endorsed by Americans in
56 all walks of life as an expression of the nation's fundamental
57 value of fairness, NOW, THEREFORE,

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59 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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61 That the Congress of the United States is urged to enact
62 the DREAM Act, creating a viable pathway to citizenship for
63 undocumented youth who reside in the United States of America.

64 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
65 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
66 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
67 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
68 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.