

IMMIGRANTS DREAM OF AN EDUCATION Push law to school illegals

Daily News (New York)

August 20, 2003, Wednesday, SPORTS FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2003 Daily News, L.P.

Section: SUBURBAN;

Length: 452 words

Byline: By RUTH BASHINSKY DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Body

Yuna Im of Flushing fears that one day she will be deported.

The 24-year-old South Korean, who **dreams** of becoming a graphic designer, said she is afraid to apply for college or even get a driver's license because she is an illegal **immigrant**.

Yesterday at the headquarters of the National Korean American Service and **Education** Consortium, Im stood with her peers to campaign for two bills - the **DREAM** (Development Relief and **Education** For Alien Minors) Act and the Student Adjustment Act.

The bills would legalize undocumented **immigrants**, giving them permanent residency status and the ability to pay in-state college tuition at public institutions and state universities.

The **DREAM** Act would apply to undocumented **immigrants** living in the U.S. continuously for at least five years who are graduates of a high **school** in the U.S. Under the Student Adjustment Act, an individual cannot be older than 21 years of age.

Steven Sungkyu Yun, executive director of the consortium, who is **pushing** for the passage of both bills, said the **DREAM** Act was reintroduced in the Senate in July and the Student Adjustment Act in the House in April.

"It is a bipartisan effort - its co-sponsors and co-introducers include Republicans as well as Democrats," said Yun, who will go to Washington next month accompanied by 30 undocumented young people. They intend to urge Congress to pass both bills, particularly the **DREAM** Act, he said.

"Hopefully, we want **DREAM** Act to be the final **law** because there is no age clause," said Yun, who already has collected 1,500 signed letters in favor of the two bills.

'It's painful'

"It's painful, because sometimes I feel like I have nothing in the future," said Im as she wiped away tears. "But if the **DREAM** Act gets passed, it would mean I would be able to go to college and not worry about whether I should get married to a United States citizen in order to get legal status. When they reintroduced it last month, I called my mom and . . . we both cried."

Said Yun, "If the bills pass, they will tremendously impact the 55,000 undocumented **immigrants** in the Korean American community and the 115,000 undocumented **immigrants** in the Chinese-American community out of the 7 million nationally. We are urging not only Asians but other communities to work together."

Ana Maria Archila, executive director of the Latin American Integration Center, said the Latino population is "the largest minority population in the state."

IMMIGRANTS DREAM OF AN EDUCATION Push law to school illegals

"Although there are no specific numbers on the number of Latino undocumented immigrants, roughly half of the undocumented numbers are Latino," said Archila. "We believe this is important legislation to secure the future of our immigrant communities."

Graphic

TARA ENGBERG A BETTER WAY Carolina Mateo and Keith Chen look over petitions in support of legislation that would allow illegal immigrants to attend school here.

Classification

Language: ENGLISH

Subject: IMMIGRATION (91%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); ASIAN AMERICANS (89%); HISPANIC AMERICANS (89%); MINORITY GROUPS (77%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (76%); LEGISLATION (76%); LEGISLATIVE BODIES (76%); HIGH SCHOOLS (76%); US DEMOCRATIC PARTY (76%); DEPORTATION (73%); TUITION FEES (72%); DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS (62%)

Industry: HIGH SCHOOLS (76%)

Geographic: UNITED STATES (96%); KOREA, REPUBLIC OF (79%); LATIN AMERICA (57%)

Load-Date: August 20, 2003

End of Document