

House Resolution 2089

By: Representatives Morgan of the 39th, Thomas of the 100th, Gardner of the 57th, Abrams of the 84th, Hugley of the 133rd, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Georgia House of Representatives to begin a conversation about the need to look
2 at policy in our state that will empower undocumented students in our state to access higher
3 education; and for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, as the federal Development, Relief, and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM)
5 Act continues to languish in Congress, it is even more critical that states consider legislation
6 to extend in-state tuition rates to undocumented immigrant students; and

7 WHEREAS, the DREAM Act has consistently garnered high levels of bipartisan voter
8 support across the nation, with 70 percent of Americans favoring the proposal in a June,
9 2010, poll; and

10 WHEREAS, it is particularly critical to create a means to integrate promising and ambitious
11 immigrant youth who are eager to engage and contribute to state institutions, communities,
12 and economies; and

13 WHEREAS, educating young people, including undocumented immigrant youth, is an
14 economic development strategy that will help states and this nation educate our way out of
15 a recession; and

16 WHEREAS, in today's economy, a college education is critical to not only increasing
17 individual earning, but also to supporting and spurring innovation and high-technology
18 industries that will generate revenue and income for states and the nation as a whole; and

19 WHEREAS, a recent study from the North American Integration and Development Center
20 at the University of California Los Angeles highlights the economic benefit to the nation of
21 legalizing young people through the DREAM Act and concludes that the roughly 2.1 million
22 undocumented young people who would stand to benefit from the DREAM Act are a highly
23 educated and potentially high-income earning group; and

24 WHEREAS, the same economic project predicts this group of young people would generate
25 approximately \$3.6 trillion for the United States economy over a 40 year period; and

26 WHEREAS, in 2009, Utah decided to keep their tuition equity law after realizing that
27 repealing the law would result in the state university systems losing at least \$1.5 million in
28 tuition fees; and

29 WHEREAS, extending tuition equity allows states to generate much needed revenue from
30 tuition fees, even as state governments grapple with dramatic budget deficits; and

31 WHEREAS, 14 states have already enacted tuition equity legislation, including California,
32 Illinois, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, New York, Texas, Utah, Washington, Connecticut,
33 and Maryland.

34 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
35 the members of this body are urged to consider the positive economic impact undocumented
36 students receiving higher education can have on the economy and to enact tuition equity
37 legislation.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
39 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Georgia General
40 Assembly.