

NEW JERSEY CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

ACTION ALERT

Press Conference and Senate Hearing on Instate Tuition Legislation

When: Monday, January 4, 2010

Action: Please join us in support of S1036/S1933
Trenton Statehouse Annex, 1st floor, Conference Room 3
9:30 AM. – 12:00 PM: Gathering for assignments and instructions.
12:30 PM: Press Conference
2:00 PM: Senate Budget and Appropriations hearing

Position: NJCC supports S1036/S1933 and A990/A194 that would allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition rates at public institutions of higher education. This will benefit a small number of students that have graduated from New Jersey public or non-public high schools. They have complied with all graduation requirements while achieving high academic status. Currently, these students are required to pay out of state tuition rates which could be up to double the resident state tuition rates. For many the higher rate goes beyond their financial means impeding their ability to attend college. We are seeking college tuition rate parity with fellow New Jersey graduates.

This bill affects students who have grown up in New Jersey that have attended and graduated from New Jersey public or non-public school system, but are unable to get their immigration status adjusted. Very often these students came to this country because their family was fleeing political or economic instability, a decision made by the parents not the student. Yet, despite the many obstacles they have faced, these students worked hard and succeeded in school. New Jersey should reward them for their hard work, initiative and desire to pursue higher education to become productive members of our communities. When talented students in our communities are prevented from reaching their full potential, we all suffer.