



ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

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STATEMENT ON SENATE PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Following is a statement by Hunter Rawlings, President of the [Association of American Universities](http://www.aau.edu), on Senate passage today of comprehensive immigration reform legislation, S. 744.

On behalf of our 60 leading public and private U.S. research universities, I want to express our deep appreciation to members of the Senate for their approval today of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, S. 744. We offer special thanks to those Senators and staff members who have spearheaded the effort to find bipartisan compromise on this difficult set of issues. We believe that the resulting legislation represents an historic opportunity to move toward an immigration system that is fair and rational and that serves well the economic, social, and educational needs of the nation.

We are pleased that S.744 incorporates several elements of importance to higher education, including a streamlined green-card process for international students with advanced STEM degrees from U.S. institutions. This will enable the United States to attract and retain many of the best and brightest international students in these critical fields as part of our national innovation system.

We are particularly grateful that the bill includes the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would benefit thousands of students around the country. The DREAM Act would give undocumented students brought to this country at an early age an expedited path to citizenship, allow them to receive federally subsidized student loans and work-study, and repeal a federal law that prohibits states from offering such students in-state tuition. These changes would help these students in earning college degrees and in becoming the scientists, engineers, scholars, and leaders of tomorrow.

We urge the House leadership to move ahead on immigration reform in the spirit of the Senate-passed bill so that a final, comprehensive immigration reform package that serves the long-term interests of the nation can be enacted this year.

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The [Association of American Universities](http://www.aau.edu) is a nonprofit association of [60 U.S. and two Canadian preeminent public and private research universities](#). Founded in 1900, AAU focuses on national and institutional issues that are important to research-intensive universities, including funding for research, research and education policy, and graduate and undergraduate education.

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