



AgJOBS in the 111th Congress (2009-2010)

On May 14, 2009, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Representatives Berman (D-CA) and Putnam (R-FL) introduced AgJOBS in the 111th Congress. The bills, [S. 1038](#) and [H.R. 2414](#) are substantially the same as the previous year's versions of AgJOBS.

Read our [statement](#) on the reintroduction of AgJOBS and the [New York Times Editorial](#) in support of AgJOBS: Farms and Immigrants.

Read Farmworker Justice's [Letter to leadership](#) in support of AgJOBS and the DREAM Act.

The DREAM Act is bipartisan legislation that would provide undocumented youth, brought here as children, with a pathway to US citizenship if they attend college or perform military service. In December 2010, the DREAM Act passed in the House of Representatives, but failed in the Senate. The Senate voted 55-41 for the bill on a cloture vote, but unfortunately, it needed supermajority of 60 votes to move forward.

Farmworker Justice supports the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act could benefit many youth, including many farmworker children. A victory for the DREAM Act is also a victory for the immigration reform movement and a step toward passing AgJOBS and comprehensive immigration reform.

On December 9, 2010 Farmworker Justice issued the following press statement on the House of Representatives action on the DREAM Act.

Last night, the House of Representatives passed the "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act" in a historic 216-198 vote. Farmworker Justice joined the United Farm Workers and farmworkers from across the country to urge support of the DREAM Act. Passage of the DREAM Act in the House is one step towards enabling youth who were brought to the country as children to earn citizenship by pursuing higher education or joining the military. The DREAM Act could benefit many farmworker children.

"We commend the House of Representatives for passing the DREAM Act in recognition that our nation's broken immigration system must be fixed. With the majority of farmworkers in undocumented status, farmworkers are desperately in need of immigration reform. Last night's victory for the DREAM Act is also a victory for the immigration reform movement and a step toward passing AgJOBS and comprehensive immigration reform," said Bruce Goldstein, President of Farmworker Justice. AgJOBS is a bipartisan compromise between labor and agricultural employers that would provide employers with a stable labor force by giving current farmworkers an opportunity to earn legal status and by making balanced changes to the H-2A program.

We look forward to working with other farmworkers supporters and immigration advocates to help pass the DREAM Act in the Senate and into law.