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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - June 6, 2025
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We Stand with Texas Immigrant Students: Education is a Right, Not a Privilege

Last week, Texas, the first state in the nation to pass a version of a state DREAM Act (2001), announced it would strip undocumented students of access to in-state tuition. In the dark of night, Texas lawmakers quietly voted to end a decades-long policy that had opened doors to higher education for thousands of immigrant youth. A policy that once symbolized hope and possibility is now being dismantled by fear and cruelty.

As a community of undocumented students and allies in New York, we at **Adelante Student Voices** are devastated by this decision. It will push thousands of young people who graduated from Texas high schools or high school equivalency programs and dreamed of giving back to their communities out of opportunities and into uncertainty.

This isn't just about policy. **It's about real lives.**

We want to honor what the Texas DREAM Act once meant. For many of us across the country, it was a spark of proof that another future was possible. Now, that legacy is under attack. And the message it sends to immigrant youth nationwide is chilling: that even the most basic dignity like access to the classroom can be taken away.

Our organization stands in full solidarity with undocumented youth in Texas. Many of them are our peers, friends, and extended community. Their dreams, labor, and brilliance are essential to the fabric of this country. What Texas has done is a betrayal of that truth.

We know what this feels like. We know the fear of being targeted, the ache of working twice as hard to access half as much. And we also know the power that comes when we speak up, organize, and refuse to be erased.

To every student in Texas who feels defeated right now: you are not alone. We see you. We believe in you. And we are fighting alongside you.

To our representatives in the New York State legislature: now is the time to courageously defend your constituents and educational institutions. The federal government is attempting to encroach on state rights and we cannot let this happen here.

We will not let this moment define us. We will define it with our resistance, our courage, and our unshakable commitment to a future where every student, regardless of immigration status, has the right to learn and thrive.

In Solidarity, Adelante Student Voices