

I personally discussed this with Secretary Napolitano. She has assured me that the Department of Homeland Security is going to follow the President's lead but is going to have strict enforcement of fraud. If any young person commits fraud in this process, there will be a price to be paid. Senator GRASSLEY should know that, and he shouldn't question it absent evidence to the contrary.

I might say it is sad we have reached this point that so few Republicans would stand for these young people. There was a time when Senator HATCH was the lead sponsor in this bill, and I was begging him to cosponsor it. Then it reached a point where he only voted for it, and then it reached a point where he voted against it.

Senator GRASSLEY has voted for this bill in the past too. In 2006, when the Republicans lost control of Congress, the DREAM Act passed the Senate out of an amendment to the comprehensive immigration bill 62 to 36. There were 23 Republicans who voted for it. Unfortunately, the Republican leaders in the House refused to take up that bill in 2006. Republican support for the DREAM Act has diminished over the years. I have to say I noted the lack of volume and firepower in criticizing the President on this DREAM Act decision. I think many of our Republican colleagues realized the American people do support this two to one, and it is the right thing to do.

I am going to do what I have done on 48 other occasions and try to make this DREAM Act discussion more than an abstract conversation. I wish to make sure people understand who is involved in these decision processes.

This is a photograph of Maria Gomez. Her parents brought her from Mexico to Los Angeles when she was 8 years old. She started school in the third grade with English as a second language. By the time she was in sixth grade, 3 years later, she was an honor student.

In middle school, Maria discovered art and architecture. She began her dream of becoming an architect. In high school, Maria was active in community service and extracurricular activities, captain of the school spirit squad, president of the garden club, and a member of the California Scholarship Federation. She graduated 10th in her class with a 3.9-grade point average.

Maria was accepted by every college she applied to. Her dream was to attend UC Berkeley, the only State college in California that offers architecture to undergraduate students, but she couldn't afford it. Maria, and the other DREAM Act students, are not eligible for any Federal assistance to go to school. Instead, she decided to live at home and to attend UCLA. She was a commuter student. She rode the bus to and from UCLA, 2½ hours each way each day.

While she was a full-time student, she worked to clean houses and did

babysitting to help pay for tuition. She graduated from UCLA with a major in sociology and a minor in public policy. She was the first member of her family to graduate from college. She was determined to achieve her dream of becoming an architect. She enrolled in the Master of Architecture Program at UCLA. She was the only Latino student in the program. She struggled financially. At the time, she had to eat at the UCLA food bank. Because she couldn't afford housing near the campus, she spent many nights in a sleeping bag on the floor of the school's printing room.

Last year, Maria received her master's degree in architecture and urban design. She said:

I grew up believing in the American dream and I worked hard to earn my place in the country that nurtured and educated me. . . . Like the thousands of other undocumented students and graduates across America, I am looking for one thing, and one thing only: the opportunity to give back to my community, my state, and the country that is my home, the United States.

I ask my colleagues who are critical of the DREAM Act and President Obama's new policy: Would you prefer that we deport Maria Gomez back to Mexico at this point in her life, a country that she has not lived in since she was a small child? She grew up here. She has overcome amazing odds to become successful. This determined young woman can make America a better nation.

Thanks to President Obama's new policy, Maria is going to be able to work. I hope she will be able to get a license as an architect in her State. A future President could change this policy so Maria's future is still in doubt because we haven't enacted the DREAM Act. Maria is not the only one. There are tens of thousands similar to her.

The DREAM Act would give Maria, and others similar to her, the opportunity to be our future architects, engineers, teachers, doctors, and soldiers.

Today, I again ask my colleagues to support the DREAM Act. The President's new deportation policy is a step in the right direction, but ultimately it is our responsibility. He has done his part. We need to pass this humane and thoughtful bill and give people such as Maria Gomez a chance to make America a better place to live.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THOMPSON-MARKWARD HALL

• Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I am pleased to honor the 125th Anniversary of Thompson-Markward Hall, which was formerly known as the Young Women's Christian Home. Many young women working as interns or beginning staffers, including many from my office throughout the years, have found a safe place to live and meet friends as they establish their professional careers. The Thompson-Markward Hall, located across from the Hart Senate Office Building on Capitol Hill, provides a valuable service to young women working in Washington and our Congressional community. Its remarkable story is one very much worth sharing.

In 1833, Mrs. Mary G. Wilkinson recognized the need in the District of Columbia for suitable lodging for young ladies of good character and meager means. She vowed that there should someday be a home for young women coming alone to Washington seeking employment, where they could be protected and cared for until they became established in the community. She began what developed into the Young Woman's Christian Home by housing two such young women in her home.

In 1887, the Young Woman's Christian Home was chartered by Congress and incorporated "to provide a temporary home for young women coming to and being in the District of Columbia, who shall, from any cause, be in want of and willing to accept temporary home, care and assistance. . . ." By 1890, the Home was receiving an annual appropriation of \$1,000 from Congress.

Over the years, the Young Woman's Christian Home underwent renovations and changed locations. In 1931, Mrs. Flora Markward Thompson, a devoted Life Member of the Board of Trustees, passed away, leaving instructions for the executors of her estate to establish a suitable memorial to her mother and her husband. The executors decided that the most suitable memorial could be entrusted to the Young Woman's Christian Home. The Home then became known as Thompson-Markward Hall now most commonly known as TMH—to perpetually remember Mrs. Thompson's generous gift.

Despite the many changes throughout the years, the original spirit and mission of the founders and early benefactors remain. Today, TMH continues to be a "home away from home" for 120 young women in Washington for work or school.

As TMH celebrates the 125th anniversary of its Congressional charter, its roots are strong and the devotion to its founder's mission remains firm and constant. I ask the United States Senate to join me in congratulating Thompson-Markward Hall on this important milestone.●