



JULY 2, 2010

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# Texas A&M Student Bill Opposes In-State Tuition For Illegal Immigrants

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Since 2001, illegal immigrants in Texas have qualified for in-state tuition by law. But a bill in the Texas A&M University student senate seeks to change that with, at the very least, a symbolic stance.

Texas A&M's student paper, [The Battalion](#), has more on the bill's possible effects:

If passed, the bill would state that A&M students do not agree that illegal residents should be allowed to pay in-state tuition.

[Student] senators questioned how the bill would affect students who are exempt from out-of-state tuition due to scholarship awards.

"This bill is only directed at people who don't enter the U.S. or reside here by legal means," said Student Services Chairman Chris Russo.

On Tuesday, the bill was sent back to its committee for further review after two hours of discussion.

The [Bryan-College Station Eagle](#) reports:

After nearly two hours of debate during the first official meeting of the body's 63rd session, student senators voted 34 to 19 to send Senate Bill 63-11 back to the external affairs committee, according to a preliminary announcement of the vote count. Senators voiced several concerns about not being educated enough on the issue, and some asked to spend the summer gathering input and revisit it in the fall.

It's rare for more than a few audience members to attend student senate meetings, but some 100 visitors packed Rudder 601, many holding signs such as "Equal Rights for All," "We're all Aggies," and "What happened to Vision 2020?"

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Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Justin Pulliam, one of the bill's co-sponsors, told the group that the issue wasn't a financial one. "This is about what's right and what's fair," he said. "It isn't fair to out-of-state citizens who are here legally."

Others, however, questioned whether or not the bill even belonged in the student senate.

According to the [Dallas Morning News](#), about 12,000 illegal immigrant/non-legal resident students were afforded in-state tuition under current law, or 1 percent of all Texas students.

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"The very word 'secrecy' is repugnant in a free and open society; and we are as a people inherently and historically opposed to secret societies,...

The screenshot shows the Twitter search interface with the search term "Illegal immigration" entered. Below the search bar, it says "Loading...". At the bottom of the screenshot, there are several search results:

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- FOXNews.com - White House Picks Critic of Local Immigration Enforcement for Key ...
- Rand Paul's Underground Electric Border Fence Baffles Cornyn, Libertarians
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**Around the Web:**

- [Illegal immigration - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia](#)
- [Illegal immigration to the United States - Wikipedia, the free ...](#)
- [Illegal Immigration | Center for Immigration Studies](#)
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- [The Dark Side Of Illegal Immigration: Facts, Figures and Data Show ...](#)
- [The Federation for American Immigration Reform \(FAIR\): Illegal ...](#)
- [Immigration ProCon.org - What are the solutions to illegal ...](#)
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**edveritas** 05:17 AM on 5/07/2010  
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I am completely against this Bill... at A&M. Students have worked really hard to earn In-state Tuition. most of these students come to the U.S. as children, some of them were kidnapped and sold here, some came here as children...some came with Visas and overstayed... These students have proven to deserve their right to be at a university. Why is this university taken dream away.. By not allowing them to receive in-state tuition.. They will literally be kicking them out of the university. They do not have the financial assistance to pay out of state tuition.. Some consider to drop out. This Bill has given a bad reputation of the school and has been a prevention for incoming freshmen not to attend this school. A&M needs to revise their bill. Thanks for the Article...

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**defiantGoat** 12:09 PM on 5/17/2010  
0 Fans

Is is possible to go to school in their home countries? I'm not asking this sarcastically, just wondering.

[Reply](#) [Permalink](#)

**HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR**  
**Forester** 06:29 PM on 5/06/2010  
257 Fans

They have a point. Illegal immigrant students are from out of state.

The UC system has reduced in-state spots so more out of state students will pay the higher tuition to help mitigate budget cuts.

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**stevo1** 08:04 AM on 5/06/2010

1 Fans

What is the argument here? every single alien "BROKE THE LAW!" Our Government, past & present, Republican & Democrat, have allowed the invasion of 20 to 30 million criminals and is the largest invasion of any Nation, at any time, by any means & in direct violation of Article IV, Section IV of our Constitution.

This refusal to abide by our Constitution should be classified as Treason of the most foul kind, as grounds for impeachment & trials for Treason!

Not only have they allowed the invasion, they force American tax payers to pay Billions of dollars to provide Welfare, Prison, Educate the invaders children, free medical care, at the same time the invading horde break numerous laws, massive document fraud, & are destroying our schools, hospitals, communities, culture and standard of living while Robbing, Raping, Killing & Assaulting American Citizens WAKE UP PEOPLE! They walked, rode, swam and drove over here, they can do the same going home! taking thier anchor babies with them!

[Reply](#)

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**gakabani** 10:01 AM on 5/07/2010



104 Fans

Criminals? What about you getting a job for 5 bucks an hour? Our economy rules our demography, live with it.

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**HUFFPOST SUPER USER**

**Thomas Dombrowsky** 10:56 PM on 5/05/2010



1 Fans

Maybe a better use of these student senators' time would be investigating why everybody's tuition in Texas is now 1000% to 2000% of what it was a generation ago.

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**FredDerf** 10:03 PM on 5/05/2010

4 Fans

Why did the Aggie get fired from the M&M factory??  
He kept on throwing out the W's.

Did you hear the Texas A&M library burned down? The saddest part was that half the books weren't colored in yet.

Why do Aggie cheerleaders wear bibs?  
To keep the tobacco juice off their uniforms.

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**Hematite** 09:13 PM on 5/05/2010

69 Fans

Southern is as southern does.

[Reply](#)

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**defiantGoat** 12:06 PM on 5/17/2010

0 Fans

stupid generalization.

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**citlali** 06:06 PM on 5/05/2010

20 Fans

While there are academic aspects of TX A&M that are stellar, the fundament-al base is still ignernt buzz-cut members of the cult of the Corps. And a shining exemplar of what this means is our Governor Good-Hair, for it is his alma mater. Remember, now, that he just declaimed that the oil bust out in the Gulf of Mexico was "an act of God", thus showing himself to be a man of faith, and simultaneously, since he was speaking as the Governor at the time, the insurance companies a possible argument for not paying up on this mess: insurance policies typically expressly do not cover "acts of God."

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JeanRR 09:48 PM on 5/05/2010

56 Fans

Texas A&M is my alma mater also. I remember the corps of cadets jogging across campus holding a large Confederate Battle Flag. I remember being shouted down as a "two-percenter" for violating 'tradition', and I remember a marching band that did not allow women until after I left. TAMU is an excellent university in many ways but its heart is somewhere to the right of Rush Limbaugh.



[Permalink](#)

gakabani 10:05 AM on 5/07/2010

104 Fans



The Corps was self-destructive and now is in decadence. The fault is in our policies and the ill-perception we all have about our armed forces. As we say here, America is not at war, our army is.



[Permalink](#)

sdiaz 03:36 PM on 5/05/2010

20 Fans

higher education needs to focus on academic qualification, ability, and potential.

a bright person is a bright person, and they merit a chance at education. intelligence and promise knows no imposed or imagined boundaries and residential limits. whether we like it or not, immigrants and their children are and will be intrinsically linked to the future of this country. we need to invest in our future.



[Permalink](#)

gorgol 12:52 PM on 5/05/2010

84 Fans



Let me see. If you're illegal and living in Texas, you get free tuition...if you live out of state and are a citizen of the United States...and you can't afford the tuition of the school...too bad. Isn't something WRONG with this picture???



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JStading 01:16 PM on 5/05/2010

56 Fans

Yeah - as an element of educational reform, I really think we need to do away with "in state" tuition and switch to a scheme of citizen tuition rates. The funds should be paid by basically giving every college aged student a voucher that they can take to any public college for classes. It wouldn't cost any more, since the federal taxes used to pay for the vouchers would relieve the pressure to pay from the states (presumably lowering state taxes).

Beyond that, we also need to address the problem that many of these schools feed into by refusing to permit more than a certain percentage of their students from coming from out of state. The whole system needs to be modernized.



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HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR  
the964kid 01:35 PM on 5/05/2010  
131 Fans



'In-state' tuition is not free, its merely a reduced rate.



[Permalink](#)

HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR  
GravitonX 02:10 PM on 5/05/2010  
347 Fans



Short, factual, accurate.

Fanned.



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**drumsgirl** 05:14 PM on 5/05/2010



162 Fans

And still shouldn't be used for illegals.

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**sdiaz** 03:27 PM on 5/05/2010

20 Fans

in-state tuition isn't free. refresh your facts.

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**Akira5284** 04:03 PM on 5/05/2010

0 Fans

As stated by two posters, in-state tuition is just a reduced rate compared to out of state students. The reason for this is because state residents pay taxes that fund the public universities. Texas has no income tax but has a state wide sales tax. This means that illegal immigrants are also paying taxes in Texas just by living in the state. Thus, they should be allowed to receive the in state resident rate.

Essentially they want to double tax these people. The thing I don't understand is how you get into a University without being flagged as an illegal immigrant. This is something I will have to read up on.

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

**Carline Noailles** 12:27 PM on 5/06/2010



6 Fans

Good point. And I was wondering the same thing: you either have to prove your status as a US citizen or a permanent resident or show your student visa.

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**ShanniC** 06:30 PM on 5/05/2010

90 Fans



I echo your sentiments. How are illegal immigrants enrolling anyway? Doesn't each student have to provide a valid SSN/Tax ID? If these students are using stolen SSNs/IDs, then they should be dropped from the roster and reported to the police for unlawful entry into this country. It is wholly unfair to allow an illegal immigrant to be charged a reduced tuition rate, yet lawful U.S. citizens are charged extra.

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**ilovemy prez** 12:22 AM on 5/06/2010

12 Fans

Agreed

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HUFFPOST SUPER USER

**A Jay** 12:21 PM on 5/05/2010



16 Fans

how is it that immigrants/non-legal persons become students at public universities in the first place? I always wondered that. i know you have to provide a birth certificate in K-12. Does anyone know?

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HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR

**the964kid** 01:37 PM on 5/05/2010



131 Fans

If you have the money for the product, whether it's a car, a bottle of soda, or even tuition, that apparently is all that matters.

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HUFFPOST COMMUNITY MODERATOR  
**GravitonX** 02:11 PM on 5/05/2010  
347 Fans



Anyone can buy a house as well.

Reply

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**gakabani** 11:00 AM on 5/05/2010  
104 Fans



The bill will not pass as it has many issues associated with the constitutional rights of illegal residents. Solve first this and then address the tuition later.

Reply

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**JStading** 01:20 PM on 5/05/2010  
56 Fans

It has no constitutional defects, namely because people who are college aged have a choice to stay in the country illegally, so stripping them of in-state tuition will not be seen as unfairly putative like the scheme was in Plyer v. Doe.

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**ilovemyprez** 04:55 PM on 5/05/2010  
12 Fans

How does that violate their constitutional rights? I went out of state for college and I had to pay more. They could go to school in their country but they or their parents chose to live and go to school here. My roommate was an exchange student from South America. She had to pay out of state tuition just as I did.

Reply

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**foxinthebox** 10:06 PM on 5/05/2010  
3 Fans

As previously posted by Akira5284, if these illegal immigrants live in the state of Texas, they contribute to the tax base by paying sales taxes and property taxes in the form of rent or mortgages. Therefore they are contributing to the tax base of Texas which is what out of state tuition is meant to equalize.

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