**Unified Student Government Association
Loyola University Chicago**

Legislation of the Senate
Bill Cover Sheet

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To be filed by the Secretary

**The Undocumented Student Act
*To declare support and the need for assistance for undocumented students at Loyola University Chicago***

**Chiefly Sponsored By:**

Pedro Guerrero, Member of the Justice Committee

**Cosponsored by:**

The Justice Committee
Melina Bunnage, Senator
Cooper Carriger, Community Co-Chair
Samantha Juarez, Chair of the Residence Life and Dining Committee
Phillip-John Puzzo, Chair of the Safety and Wellness Committee

**The Undocumented Student Act**

***To declare support and the need for assistance for undocumented students at Loyola University Chicago***

**Whereas** Loyola University Chicago’s mission statement identifies that the university is “working to expand knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice, and faith,”1 and

**Whereas** The Jesuit tenet, *Cura Personalis,* callsfor the care of the entire human being, and

**Whereas** Commitment to the marginalized traces back to the establishment of the Jesuit order, and\*

**Whereas** Jesuit universities were originally created to facilitate the education of immigrants and their offspring in the United States\*

**Whereas** According to the Immigrant Student National Paper, an estimated 5-10% of students, out of a pool of approximately 65,000 undocumented high school graduates per year\* pursue higher education, and

**Whereas** Loyola University Chicago currently accepts undocumented students, and

**Whereas** Undocumented students cannot receive federal financial aid, and

**Whereas** 76% of staff members surveyed for the Immigrant Student National Paper, including staff members from Loyola, strongly agreed that admitting, enrolling, and supporting undocumented students fits within the mission of the institution\*, and

**Whereas** A college education involves more than coursework, but also “contact with faculty, the library, the dormitory and a myriad of other activities that enrich the experiences of most students, and”\*

**Whereas** Many undocumented students work to cover living costs or take care of family members in situations that the family cannot survive without the assistance of the student, resulting in pressure to perform not only academically, but also for the benefit of the family\*, and

**Whereas** Undocumented students may not be able to fully participate in campus life due to pressing familial obligations\*, and

**Whereas** The informal, ad-hoc systems currently in place by the university make admissions processes and legal counseling difficult\*, and

**Whereas** Most, if not all, undocumented students live in constant fear of deportation, denying them the opportunity to develop their talents through co-curricular participation\*, and

**Whereas** There currently are no scholarships dedicated to funding the education of undocumented students, and

**Therefore** Be it resolved that the Unified Student Government Association, hereafter referred to as the USGA, supports the presence and integration of undocumented students on Loyola University Chicago’s campus, and

**Therefore** Be it further resolved that the USGA acknowledges the difficulties encountered by undocumented students concerning higher education, and

**Therefore** Be it further resolved that the USGA strongly encourages the administration to create a scholarship fund exclusively for undocumented students, and

**Therefore** Be it finally resolved that the USGA believes the university administration should create a formal admissions process for undocumented students, complete with legal counseling, psychological support, and career advising.