ཏིབྦ་བོད་མོང་གོལ་ཀའི་ཆོས་འཁོར་རིག་གནས་ཁང་།

Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center

August 3, 2010

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Lugar:

The Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center (TMBCC) supports your efforts to push forward the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act whereby children of undocumented aliens may be granted temporary residency in the USA while they pursue higher education.

As part of our mission, our personnel routinely meet with Mongolians who visit our center and counsel them on how best to adjust to life in the USA. We have become aware of the plight of a number of undocumented children whose parents came to this country seeking the American Dream. Reared in this country, these young people have worked hard to become a part of the American Culture, but then find it impossible to further their education or find jobs because of their undocumented status.

In particular, I want to draw to your attention the story of a young student, Dulguun Batbold, who committed suicide in February 2010 at the age of 19. The son of Mongolians who frequent our center, Dulguun came to the USA when he was ten years old. He worked hard in school and received awards and commendations. His character was impeccable. Dulguun graduated from Jeffersonville High School in Jeffersonville, Indiana with high honors and had received a full scholarship to Purdue University where he planned to major in Computer Graphics and Business. He dreamed of having his own business someday. However, when it was time to register for classes at Purdue, he was denied enrollment because he did not have a social security number. In despair, Dulguun took his life since it appeared that no future was available for him.

Our country, as well as these young people, would greatly benefit if their talents and intelligence were allowed to enrich our educational system and our workforce. The United States of America was founded by immigrants and derives its rich culture because of the diverse backgrounds of those who have come to our shores seeking freedom and the opportunity to pursue happiness. At this point in our history, we should not obliterate our heritage by denying opportunities to our newest immigrants.

Sincerely,

Arjia Rinpoche, Director
Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center

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