October 23, 2007

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Bar Association, I write to urge you to vote in favor of cloture for S. 2205, the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2007 (DREAM Act), and to support final passage of the bill.

The ABA supports a path to lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship for undocumented persons who entered the United States as minors and have developed significant ties to the United States, subject to a good moral character requirement and security screening. The DREAM Act, a bipartisan bill sponsored by Senators Durbin, Hagel and Lugar, would provide individuals who entered the country as children and who meet certain strict criteria an opportunity to pursue legal residence.

The majority of these young people were brought to the United States by their parents, with no say in that decision, and for many it is the only home they have ever known. They have actively contributed to their schools and communities, have stayed out of trouble, and seek to pursue opportunities through college or the military that will enable them to fulfill their potential and further contribute to our society. It is in our nation’s best interests to provide these individuals with an opportunity to earn legal permanent residence and that is what the DREAM Act will accomplish.

We strongly urge you to support cloture and passage of the DREAM Act.

Sincerely,

Denise A. Cardman
Acting Director