

Board of Governors

Fred W. Alvarez, Chair
Jones Day

Alina Ball
UC Hastings College of the Law

Lee McEnany Caraher
Double Forte PR and Marketing

Barbara J. Chisholm
Altshuler Berzon LLP

Martin R. Glick
Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer LLP

Dolores Jimenez
Kaiser Permanente

Leo P. Martinez
UC Hastings College of the Law

Anita D. Stearns Mayo
Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP

Robert H. Olson
Squire Patton Boggs (retired)

Rohit K. Singla
Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP

Staff

Guillermo Mayer
President & CEO

John T. Affeldt
Richard A. Marcantonio
Managing Attorneys

Isabel Alegría
Director of Communication

Liz Guillen
Director of Legislative
& Community Affairs

Deborah Harris
Director of Development

Sumi Paik
Director of Finance &
Administration

Samuel Tepperman-Gelfant
Deputy Managing Attorney

Angelica K. Jongco
David Zisser
Senior Staff Attorneys

Rigel S. Massaro
Chelsea Tu
Staff Attorneys

Michelle Pariset
Policy Advocate

Anne Bellows
Attorney & Equal Justice Works
Fellow

Paulina Almanza
Law Fellow

Patty Leal
Finance Manager

Will Roscoe
Grants Manager

Duc Luu
Senior Communications Associate

Ayşe Gürsöz
Digital Communications Associate

Tia Nguyen
Policy & Administrative Coordinator

Madelyn Wargowski
Development & Administrative
Assistant



May 11, 2017

By electronic mail

The Honorable Ricardo Lara
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
State Capitol, Room 2206
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: SB 257 (Lara) – Support as Amended, May 3, 2017

Dear Senator Lara:

Public Advocates supports SB 257 (Lara), your proposal to require that school districts grant admission to students, who are otherwise eligible for admission, whose parent(s) were California residents and have been deported or voluntarily departed pursuant to a specified federal law.

Public Advocates is a civil rights legal organization that has served as a key voice for educational equity in landmark cases such as *Serrano v. Priest* and *Williams v. California*. We work to reverse inequities and ensure meaningful access to opportunity for students most affected by systemic injustices. Our commitment to “making rights real” has shaped our vision of building an educational system that prepares all students for college and career readiness, regardless of socioeconomic status, race, place of residency, language, or immigration status.

According to the 2010 National Census in Mexico, it was estimated that approximately 597,000 U.S. born children and adolescents are currently living in Mexico. Many of these children emigrated out of the United States as the result of the deportation of their relative or out of concern for a parent or parent’s immigration status. Given that Mexico’s education system is not equipped with resources to fully integrate these uprooted children with limited Spanish skills, these students face many learning barriers. SB 257 would set them up for greater successes for the students and the State than we would if we turned our backs because of their parents’ residency status.

For these reasons, Public Advocates supports SB 257 and urge its passage through Appropriations Committee. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about our position.

Sincerely,

Liz Guillen
Director of Legislative & Community Affairs
(916) 803-5596 – cell

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee