

Gilbert Mejia -

My name is Gilbert and I would qualify for the DREAM Act. On November 3rd my family will be deported and I will most likely soon after that be put on a track towards my own deportation. My family immigrated here from Guatemala when I was just a 12 months old. I don't have any memories of back home, just the stories that my parents share. I have two younger United States citizen sisters, my sister Helen is 12 years old and my other sister Dulce is 3 years old. Both of my sisters would be forced to leave should my parents be deported, this is especially difficult for Helen as she suffers from --- and her life could be in danger back in Guatemala. My parents and I worry every single day about what might happen to her should we be deported.

All of my childhood memories, as those of my sisters, are from our home here in the US - my first day of school, elementary and middle school, making all sorts of friends. One of my fondest memories is from high school at Navato High where, in 2008, our varsity soccer team took the North Coast Championship. Currently I am attending Santa Rosa Junior College, my dream is to transfer to Cal Poly and one day become an architect. I am also a member of Saint Raphael's Church, there I coordinate a youth group every Friday night and on Saturday mornings I help give catechism classes.

Being undocumented in the country I consider my home has been difficult and I have constantly faced challenges, but I don't know how I can possibly overcome my biggest challenge... having to see my family get ripped apart. I don't know how I can endure the pain this would cause.

As an immigrant student I will never lose my hope that one day I will accomplish my Dream of becoming an Architect and being able to give back to my community. Countless families just like mine are being torn apart and the only way we can make sure it stops is if the DREAM Act legislation passes. Please help me keep my family together. Thank you.