



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE / JACL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **JACL Statement on DREAM Act and DADT Legislation**

**Washington, DC** – The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, is disappointed by the obstruction of the DREAM Act by the U.S. Senate last Saturday.

There are approximately 65,000 undocumented students who graduate from high school, many of them being Asian American. If passed, the DREAM Act would have allowed these deserving students to continue their education in college or join the military to pave a way to citizenship.

National Executive Director, Floyd Mori stated: “We commended the House for taking important steps towards helping these students in a broken immigration system, but unfortunately the Senate could not follow suit. Even with this setback, the JACL is still committed to the DREAM Act and to advocate for these youth who deserve a chance at the American dream.”

On a brighter note, the JACL applauds the Senate for voting to repeal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (DADT) with a 65-31 vote. This repeal will end a discriminatory measure in the military and allow gay and lesbian members to serve with dignity. Sexual orientation does not distinguish the love and honor for your country, and the JACL is pleased that the U.S. military will end an outdated human rights law. The JACL looks forward to President Obama signing the bill and commends the Senate leadership to end DADT.

### About JACL:

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization concerned with issues of education, public policy and leadership development. With 113 chapters in 26 states, the JACL is a prominent voice for the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community on issues that affect the well-being of the community. As a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization, the JACL promotes public awareness about the history and achievements of AAPIs, identifies and trains youth for leadership and service and pursues public policy issues that affect the AAPI community. The JACL headquarters is located in San Francisco with additional offices in Chicago, Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

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