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## Proposed Legislation for Dreamers

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The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is under imminent threat. There is a draft Executive Order, which has not been signed by the President, which would rescind DACA, halt approval of DACA applications, and allow current employment authorization documents to remain valid until they expire. Those who are currently protected under DACA wonder what other options they have if DACA is revoked. Currently, the DREAM Act, which would provide some protections for Dreamers, is pending in Congress.

The Dream Act of 2017 was introduced on July 20, 2017. It is a bipartisan bill authored by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL), and would provide young people who were brought to this country as children and grew up in the United States the chance to apply for lawful permanent residence, if they meet certain requirements:

- Continuously physically present in the U.S. for 4 years preceding the date of the enactment;
- Was 17 years old or younger on the date of entry into the U.S.;
- Is not inadmissible on certain other safety/criminal grounds;
- Has not been convicted of any federal or state offense punishable by a term of imprisonment of more than 1 year or 3 or more federal or state offenses for which the person was convicted on different dates and imprisoned for an aggregate of 90 days or more; and
- Has been admitted to an institution of higher education or has graduated from high school or obtained a GED or a high school equivalency diploma, or is enrolled in secondary school or in an education program assisting students in obtaining a high school diploma or in passing a GED or equivalent exam.

Dreamers are an integral part of our country, and there is widespread, bipartisan support for providing them a path to citizenship. For more than 15 years, an overwhelming majority of the public has agreed that the Dreamer population is an integral part of our country and that they deserve a chance to build their lives here. The Dream Act of 2017 would give the many young, talented and contributing Dreamers just that opportunity.

Dreamers contribute significantly to our communities and our economy. Dreamers each have their own stories - of seeking a better life, a better education, a chance to work, and a life free from fear

- that are affirmations of the American Dream. With their hard work, perseverance, and deep community roots, Dreamers make our country stronger and better. Dreamers contribute significantly to our communities and our economy. Reports have shown that eliminating DACA would cost \$433.4 billion in GDP loss over a decade and reduce Social Security and Medicare tax contributions by \$24.6 billion over the same time period.

We must insist that the Administration keeps DACA in place until Congress passes the Dream Act. If you would like to advocate for these programs, you can call, tweet, email, or send letters to your representatives and ask them to support the DREAM Act and fight to keep DACA.

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