

Support Fairness: The DREAM Act of 2021 (S.264)

The bipartisan DREAM Act promotes our nation's core values and the rule of law by fixing a crucial flaw in the immigration laws if the DACA program is ended.

- The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides temporary legal status to young people who were brought here as children--through no fault of their own--and now find themselves in legal limbo under our nation's dysfunctional immigration system. The President's proposal to end the DACA program is currently under review by the United States Supreme Court.
- Ending DACA would put nearly 800,000 otherwise law-abiding immigrant young people—an estimated 50,000 of whom are on the front lines of our health care system in the midst of the pandemic--in danger of being deported from the only home many of them have ever known.
- As Americans, we do not hold children legally accountable for the actions of their parents, and leaving DACA recipients in legal limbo does nothing to promote the rule of law or our nation's fundamental values.
- The bipartisan DREAM Act creates a legal path for DACA recipients to gain permanent legal status and continue contributing to their communities. To be eligible under the DREAM Act, young people must go through a lengthy process that involves educational or work requirements, background checks, and compliance with a number of other restrictions and requirements.

"Dreamers" make huge contributions to our economy, our communities, and our country.

- DACA has been a great success from economic, national security, and humanitarian standpoints. More than 97% of DACA recipients are in school or in the workforce, 5% started their own business, 65% have purchased a vehicle, and 16% purchased their first home.
- By eliminating this program, the U.S. economy will lose an estimated \$460.3 billion from the national GDP and \$24.6 billion in Social Security and Medicare tax contributions over the next decade.
- Illinois has over 42,000 DACA recipients (the third highest number in the country). A recent study estimates that Illinois will lose nearly \$2.3 billion in annual GDP from removing DACA workers.
- Many DACA program recipients are on the front lines of the current COVID-19 pandemic as first responders, healthcare professionals, and legal aid and public service attorneys.

Now more than ever, Congress should pass a clean version of the bipartisan DREAM Act and build on that success to tackle the broader reforms necessary to fix the broken immigration system.

- The root cause of this problem remains our nation's broken immigration system.
- The system ultimately can only be fixed through comprehensive reform. In the meantime, Congress should pass the DREAM Act without delay and then take on comprehensive immigration reform either in one comprehensive package or in a series of reform bills.
- The DREAM Act has widespread support from across the political and economic spectrum--including leaders in the military, business, education, and faith communities--and has broad support from the American people as well.