

Topline Messages

REPUBLICANS NEED TO PASS A CLEAN DREAM ACT BY END OF THE YEAR

1. Every Democrat in the House and the Senate supports the Dream Act. We need Republicans in Congress to join with them to pass a clean Dream Act now.

- **Time is running out for the millions of young immigrants who are American in all but paperwork.** President Trump created this crisis by ending DACA, and now it's up to Republicans in Congress to join with Democrats to resolve it.
- **This is urgent: Dreamers are already losing their DACA status.** When DHS arbitrarily and unfairly changed the renewal deadline for thousands of DACA recipients, they didn't send out any notices to the Dreamers about the change and refused to extend the October 5th deadline even after the hurricanes.
- Right now, **more than 22,000 young people who couldn't meet that unexpected deadline are starting to lose their status. Families and communities are feeling the effects at this very moment:** mortgages that can't be paid, jobs on the line, and higher education forgone.

2. Action needed: Republicans in Congress need to pass a clean Dream Act now.

- **The political pressure here is on the Republicans.** They control the Presidency and the Congress. Only they can make sure the Dream Act is given a chance and a vote.
- Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, the time for sweet talk has passed; **the time for legislative action is now.**
- **Dreamers are losing protection NOW.** Republicans in Congress must pass a clean Dream Act now by whatever legislative means possible.

3. Republicans in Congress have a deadline to pass the Dream Act by the end of the year.

- Republicans in Congress need to understand that if they do not pass the Dream Act by the end of the year, they **must** include it on the spending bill or they will be funding the deportation of Dreamers. It is that simple.

A Clean Dream Act

Background

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provided young undocumented immigrants who arrived to the U.S. as children with relief from deportation and a temporary work authorization. Despite its overwhelming success as well as support from faith, business, law enforcement and other civil society leaders, the Trump administration decided to end the program. Indeed, on September 5, 2017, the U.S. Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, announced the rescission of the program with a six-month delay and the President called on Congress to provide a legislative solution. As a result, immigrant youth from across the country are urgently asking Members of Congress to pass the Dream Act before the end of the year.

What the American people support: The Dream Act

The 2017 Dream Act was introduced with bipartisan support in the Senate (S.1615) by Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and in the House of Representatives (H.R. 3440) by Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-27). If enacted, the Dream Act would provide an opportunity for immigrant youth to earn a pathway to citizenship if they:

- Entered the U.S. as minors before the age of 18
- Have been in the U.S. for 4 years
- Pass background checks
- Maintain good moral character throughout the process
- Complete one of the track requirements: education, military or work

What the American people DO NOT support: Separation and/or harassment of families

- We need to ditch the idea that parents must endure more pain in order to have freedom for their children. That is why when we say clean, we mean no dangerous enforcement measures that will violate the sanctity of our families.
- Anti-immigrant add-ons to the Dream Act like more funding for ICE or CBP, whose budgets are already overblown, not only are unnecessary, but would also waste taxpayer contributions.

Congress must act now!

- We must focus on the urgent crisis at hand: hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth will lose their ability to work, study, and live in this country they call home in a matter of months.
- Congress must do its job, focus on addressing this crisis now and pass a clean Dream Act by the end of this year.
- There is overwhelming support from the American people including faith, education, business, law enforcement and other leaders from civil society.

Immigrant Youth Will Be Deported If Congress Doesn't Act

If the Dream Act is not included in the December must-pass spending bills, Congress will be funding the deportation of Immigrant youth.

With less than a month to go before the December 8th deadline for the year-end spending bill, Congressional Republicans and President Trump are waffling on whether to include a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers in the bill. [Speaker Paul Ryan](#) rejected the idea of including a bill to protect Dreamers in the year-end spending bill, but that same day [fourteen Republican Members of Congress](#) called on Congress to solve the problem this year. Immigrant youth cannot wait until after December, as some GOP leaders have suggested. If Congress fails to include a permanent solution in the bill, they will be using taxpayer dollars to deport every undocumented immigrant, including Dreamers.

Under the Trump Administration, every undocumented immigrant is a target.

ICE does not discriminate. When it comes to deportation – anyone is a fair target. Homeland Security issued [official guidance](#) saying they will “not exempt classes or categories of removal aliens” and that “all of those in violation of the immigration laws” can be deported. [ICE Director Homan](#) testified before Congress saying every undocumented person “should look over [their] shoulder”. There are no special protections in place for Dreamers, now that President Trump has terminated the DACA program. ICE will treat Dreamers as targets for deportation if Congress does not act.

Immigrant youth are losing status now and many more will be at risk.

When President Trump ended the temporary protections for Dreamers in the DACA program, he forced 154,000 Dreamers who would normally have six months to renew their status to apply [within one month](#). As a result, [22,000 Dreamers](#) will lose their status *before* March 5th. The [NY Times](#) reported a post office delay resulted in applications successfully mailed ahead of time later getting rejected. USCIS may even have [violated constitutional due process](#). Since President Trump’s decision, [8,000 Dreamers](#) have already lost their temporary protections and starting March 5th, the number of Dreamers losing their status will rapidly increase. Once they lose their status, ICE considers Dreamers targets for deportation.

ICE and CBP have already arrested immigrant youth – some as young as ten years old.

On October 26, Border Patrol officials arrested and detained ten-year-old [Rosa Maria Hernandez](#) right after she had emergency surgery at Driscoll Children’s Hospital. ICE and CBP have arrested current DACA recipients in [Washington](#), [Mississippi](#) and [Texas](#) and even [deported a DACA recipient in California](#) with no warning this year. The age of the undocumented person does not matter – everyone is a target for deportation under the official guidance of the Trump Administration.

DHS uses taxpayer dollars to jail and deport undocumented immigrants – regardless of their age.

Congress has until December 8th to decide how to spend taxpayer dollars in 2018. While the final decisions have yet to be made, the House DHS appropriations bill included \$619.7 million more dollars for Immigration & Customs Enforcement for 1,000 new agents, \$4.4 billion for an

unprecedented number of jail beds and \$100 million for 500 new Border Patrol Agents. These taxpayer dollars are used to fund President Trump's long-promised deportation force. If Congress does not act, these taxpayer funds will be used to arm DHS officials to jail and deport immigrant youth.

The only thing that will keep Dreamers safe is a path to citizenship.

Including the Dream Act in the December spending bill ensures immigrant youth can become full Americans and that taxpayers won't pay for the ticket that takes them permanently away from home.

H.R. 3440 & S.1615 – The Dream Act of 2017

Introduced by Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA-40) and Rep. Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL-27) in the House of Representatives and by Sen. Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Graham (R-SC), Sen. Schumer (D-NY) and Sen. Flake (R-AZ) in the Senate.

The Dream Act of 2017 is a bipartisan, bicameral bill that provides a path to citizen for immigrant youth who came to the United States as children. In order to earn a path to citizenship, young immigrants or "Dreamers" must pursue higher education, work legally or serve in the military and maintain a clean criminal record. The Dream Act allows 1 million young people who call the United States home to live up to their full potential and contribute to the American economy.

The Path to Citizenship

The Dream Act creates a three-step path to citizenship. Immigrant youth must first prove they came to the United States when they were 17 or younger, pass a background check and be admitted to a college or university or earn a high school diploma. About 1.7 million immigrant youth are likely to gain legal permanent residency if they acquire a degree from a higher education institution or complete two years in a bachelor's program, work for at least three years, or serve at least two years in the military. DACA recipients, who have already met stringent requirements to earn legal work permits, can apply directly to become legal permanent residents. It would take five years for DACA recipients to become U.S. Citizens and thirteen years for immigrant youth without DACA to become U.S. citizens.

Why is the Dream Act Important?

- **Immigrant youth who call the United States home are in danger.** Under President Obama, 800,000 young immigrants who came to the United States at the average age of six earned legal work permits, attended higher education and became full Americans, except on paper. On September 5th, President Trump terminated the DACA program. Now, immigrant youth are losing their status every day and could be deported to a country they don't know. Congress is the only branch of government that can solve this crisis.

- **The Dream Act is good for our economy.** Passing the Dream Act would add \$22.7 billion annually to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP). On a per capita basis, passing the Dream Act would ultimately raise the average incomes of all Americans by between approximately \$82 and \$273, annually.
- **The American public agrees immigrant youth “Dreamers” should stay.** 73% of voters want Congress to pass legislation that allows Dreamers to earn legal status and protection from deportation, including 70% of Republicans. 65% of voters say protecting Dreamers should be either an important or top priority for Congress.