



DACA Call to Action: DREAM Act Now!

January 24, 2018

Background: As ALAS expands its work and efforts to advance and support federal education policy that supports and strengthens public education, we are closely following the very current conversation around Congress reaching a final resolution on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA was a program created by President Obama through executive order. When President Trump announced the end of DACA protections for young people brought here as minors, he started a six-month clock for Congress to resolve this issue. That timeline expires in March, meaning Congress has less than two months to find common ground. Democrats are interested in a clean DACA deal, the DREAM Act, a piece of legislation that provides a path to citizenship. ALAS supports the DREAM Act. More recently, DACA has become a bargaining chip in the FY18 appropriations issue. DACA became a point of leverage during the last shutdown, with Democrats initially refusing to fund the government without a DACA vote. That resulted in the shutdown. The DACA vote was not completed as part of the deal to end the shutdown, but Majority Leader McConnell assured a Senate vote on an immigration proposal on/before February 8. We are under the assumption that McConnell will honor his word and bring the vote; the real item to watch is if the House will pass what the Senate adopts. And if they don't (which could happen!) will Dems again draw the line, and trigger another shutdown around February 8? As it stands, ALAS supports the DREAM Act as a comprehensive solution to DACA protections.

Resources:

- Curious about what DACA means in your state and Congressional district? How many people are eligible for DACA? What economic impact would the end of DACA have? Check out [this map](https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/daca-map/): <https://dornsife.usc.edu/csii/daca-map/>
- This [fact sheet](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/profile-current-daca-recipients-education-industry-and-occupation) details current DACA recipients by education, industry, and occupation. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/profile-current-daca-recipients-education-industry-and-occupation>



Call to Action: Contact your FULL Congressional delegation, your Representative and BOTH your Senators. Call the Congressional Switch board [\(202\) 224-3121](tel:202-224-3121) and ask to be transferred to your Senators/Representative. The person who answers is taking a tally of votes for and against, and the script you can read is below.

- Congress must act NOW to adopt a clean DREAM Act as a final resolution to the DACA program.
- We work and live with DACA recipients in our classrooms and our communities. Despite the challenges they face, they continue to leave impressive marks on our community, state and nation's economy. These students and young adults must continue to be able to do so, free from fear and anxiety.
- Public support for the DREAM Act is overwhelming and bipartisan. A Sept. 2017 Fox News poll found that 83 percent of Americans support some pathway to citizenship for these individuals. A Sept. 2017 Washington Post-ABC News poll found more than two-thirds of adults—69 percent—support allowing these individuals to stay in the United States if they had arrived as a child, had completed high school or served in the military, and had not committed a serious crime. A more recent Jan. 11 poll from Quinnipiac University (NY) finds that 79 percent of American voters overall, and 64 percent of registered Republicans, believe Dreamers should be allowed to remain in the U.S. and apply for citizenship.
- The cost of deporting individuals with DACA status would exceed more than \$60 billion in lost tax revenue (national) and cause a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth in the next decade.
- ALAS supports the DREAM Act. As the most inclusive bipartisan legislative solution, DREAM provides DACA recipients with the permanent protections they deserve.
- DREAM provides multiple pathways to citizenship, including higher education, military service and employment.
- DREAM is clear that to qualify, individuals must have entered the US as minors and remained here continuously for four years before the date of the bill's enactment.
- Congress must act NOW to vote for the DREAM Act of 2017.