

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Talking Points to Congress to Protect Dreamers

January 2018

- Congress should act promptly to address this issue by providing a long-term and permanent fix, certainly well before the March 5, 2018, deadline. In order to do that, we ask that you consider a long-term solution for Dreamers as you work to finalize the FY 2018 appropriations process.
- We have seen these remarkable individuals up close, in our classrooms, and as our colleagues and friends. Despite the challenges they face, they have made incredible contributions to our country and its economy and security. They should continue to be able to do so rather than living in fear and uncertainty.
- Public polling and policy analysis supports a legislative fix. 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 conservative CATO Institute estimates that deporting those with DACA status would cost nationally over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.
- Given the importance of this issue, I am asking you to reach out to your leadership to express support for passing a long-term and permanent solution as soon as possible, well before the current DACA program expires on March 5, 2018. As noted by the January 3, 2018, letter from three previous Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security, legislation must be passed soon in order to meet “the significant administrative requirements of implementation” and “to prevent large scale loss of work authorization.”
- I urge you to work with your colleagues in Congress, in a bipartisan manner, to find a long-term permanent solution for these Dreamers.