



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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ACTION ALERT

DATE: December 1, 2017
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

URGE CONGRESS TO PASS THE “DREAM” ACT AND PROTECT HARD–WORKING AMERICANS AND CHILDREN BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

***S.1615/HR.3440 WOULD HELP AS MANY AS 1.7 MILLION LAW- ABIDING,
YOUNG PEOPLE STAY IN THE U.S. IF CONGRESS ACTS BEFORE PRESIDENT
TRUMP’S ORDER TO DEPORT THEM HAPPENS***

THE ISSUE:

On September 5, 2017, U.S. Attorney General Sessions announced that as of March 5, 2018, the Trump Administration would formally terminate the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*, or “DACA” program which President Obama had initiated and the NAACP supported in June of 2012. The program allows some individuals who entered the country as minors without documentation to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit. As of 2017, approximately 800,000 individuals – referred to as “DREAMERs,” after legislation known as the DREAM Act (the “Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors” Act) – were enrolled in the program created by DACA. DREAMERs originate from all parts of the world including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Europe, and currently live in every state in our nation.

President Obama’s decision to initiate the DACA program came after the Congress failed to address this crucial issue. The *DREAM Act* was first considered by Congress in 2007. Since that time, it has been brought to the floor of the United States Senate at least three times, yet it has never made it to becoming law.

It is now up to Congress to help the “DREAMERs.” The *DREAM Act* has once again been introduced with strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate (S. 1615, by Senators Lindsey Graham, SC, and Richard Durbin, IL) and in the US House (H.R. 3440, by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard, CA, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL). The *DREAM Act* would allow these young people to earn lawful permanent residence and eventually American citizenship if they: are longtime residents who came to the U.S. as children; graduate from high school or obtain a GED; pursue higher education, work lawfully for at least three years, or serve in the military; pass security and law enforcement background checks; pay a reasonable application fee; demonstrate proficiency in the English language and a knowledge of United States history; and have not committed a felony or other serious crimes and do not pose a threat to our country.

Despite the fact that DREAMERs are often portrayed as being Latino, they originate from all over the world. Most of them know no other home than the United States. Regardless of their skin color or country of origin, though, they could all face deportation if Congress fails to act. Congress has had almost three months to resolve any outstanding issues facing the legislation, yet no action has been taken. Congress must pass the *DREAM Act* before it leaves for Christmas break. It is immoral and repugnant to play politics with anyone’s life, especially a young life.

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your Representative and both your Senators **and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE DREAM ACT, S. 1615 / H.R. 3340**. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

To write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)

U.S. Senate

Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on "*Find Your Senators*". Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on "Find Your Representative" (on the right hand side of the screen) and enter your zip code.

This should take you to a screen that identifies who your Representative is and how to get in touch with him or her.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- The *DREAM Act* would allow as many as 1.7 million young people earn lawful permanent residence and eventually American citizenship if they: are longtime residents who came to the U.S. as children; graduate from high school or obtain a GED; pursue higher education, work lawfully for at least three years, or serve in the military; pass security and law enforcement background checks and pay a reasonable application fee; demonstrate proficiency in the English language and a knowledge of United States history; and have not committed a felony or other serious crimes and do not pose a threat to our country.
- The rescission of DACA is inconsistent with this nation's highest values and contrary to what most Americans believe. Passage of the DREAM Act would restore morality to our political process.
- It's time for Congress to make a choice: stand with the people and pass the DREAM Act or stand on the wrong and immoral side of history.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org

Sample Letter

(date)

The Honorable _____
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE *DREAM ACT*; SUPPORT S. 1615 / H.R. 3440

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support the immediate enactment of the *DREAM Act*, S. 1615 / H.R. 3340. Passage of the *DREAM Act* would reverse the cruel, short-sighted decision by the Trump Administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or *DACA* program and in doing so give hope to an estimated 1.7 million people who have lived lawful, solid lives in the United States.

The *DREAM Act* would allow as many as 1.7 million young people, including the almost 800,00 *DACA* recipients, earn lawful permanent residence and work towards American citizenship if they: are longtime residents who came to the U.S. as children; graduate from high school or obtain a GED; pursue higher education, work lawfully for at least three years, or serve in the military; pass security and law enforcement background checks; pay a reasonable application fee; demonstrate proficiency in the English language and a knowledge of United States history; and have not committed a felony or other serious crimes and do not pose a threat to our country.

DACA has been extraordinarily beneficial, allowing nearly 800,000 individuals in the United States to live, work legally, and contribute to the only country most of them have ever known. As their buying power increases so do jobs across the U.S.; almost 55% of *DACA* recipient purchased a car since the program began, and more than one-in-ten bought their first home.

Thus, I am asking you again to support immediate passage of the *DREAM Act* before Congress adjourns for the Christmas break and it is too late. The decision to revoke *DACA* is inconsistent with this nation's highest values and contrary to what most Americans believe. It's time for Congress to make a moral choice: stand with the people and pass the *DREAM Act* or stand on the wrong side of history. Please contact me in the near future to let me know what you are doing on this issue and what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

***Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.***