

DACA and The DREAM Act

The Trump Administration's rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program puts at risk nearly 800,000¹ young people who have built communities, pursued education, and contributed to our economy since the program's implementation. Since 2012, DACA has provided work authorization and protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children. The program will expire on March 6, 2018. On that date, DACA recipients who did not apply to extend their current permits by October 5th could become eligible for deportation.

Each year, 80,000 DACA-eligible people turn 18 years of age -- and this group represents only a fraction of the millions of DREAMers living in the United States. The average DREAMer entered the U.S. as a child, attends U.S. schools, speaks English, and many of them live unaware of their legal status. They are an important part of the most diverse generation in American history², and a permanent solution is needed for these young people who may now be forced to leave the only country they've ever known.

As a permanent solution, *Young Invincibles recommends that Congress* pass the bipartisan and comprehensive Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act because:

- For an estimated 3.4 million³ DREAMers, **the United States is home.**
 - The average DREAMer **entered the country at the age of 6 years old** and is now 16-35 years old.⁴
 - **Passing DREAM would relieve up to 1.9 million DREAMers**, including 800,000 current DACA recipients and the tens of thousands of DREAMers who graduate from U.S. high schools each year, of the threat of deportation and provide a path to citizenship.
- Passing the DREAM Act would have a positive impact on the economy.
 - The CBO estimated **\$2.2 billion in savings over 10 years** for an older version of the bill.⁵
 - Passing the DREAM Act would add a total of \$22.7B annually to the US GDP.⁶
- The **overwhelming majority of Americans** say DREAMERS deserve a chance.⁷
 - **78 percent of voters** support giving DREAMers the opportunity to build their lives and contribute to their communities in the United States.
 - **73 percent of those who voted for President Trump** support allowing them to stay.

¹ Young Invincibles, "Bipartisan DREAM Act Reintroduced in Senate", accessed September 29, 2017,

<http://younginvincibles.org/press-releases/bipartisan-dream-act-reintroduced-senate/>.

² American Council on Education "Who are the Dreamers?", accessed October 11, 2017,

<http://www.acenet.edu/Pages/Protect-Dreamers-Higher-Education-Coalition.aspx>.

³ American Immigration Council, "Fact Sheet: The Dream Act, DACA, and Other Policies Designed to Protect Dreamers", accessed September 29, 2017,

<https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/dream-act-daca-and-other-policies-designed-protect-dreamers>.

⁴ Center for American Progress. Accessed, "National DACA Study," accessed October, 25, 17,

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/08/27164928/Wong-Et-Al-New-DACA-Survey-2017-Codebook.pdf>

⁵ American Immigration Council, "Fact Sheet: The DREAM Act: Creating Economic Opportunities", accessed October 2, 2017,

<https://americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/dream-act-creating-economic-opportunities>.

⁶ Center for American Progress, "The Economic Benefits of Passing the DREAM Act", accessed October 11, 2017,

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2017/09/18/439134/economic-benefits-passing-dream-act/>.

⁷ Morning Consult, "Poll: Trump's Decision on Dreamers Is a Popular One — Even Among His Base", accessed September 29, 2017

<https://morningconsult.com/2017/06/16/poll-trumps-decision-dreamers-popular-one-even-among-bas>