

THE CONSEQUENCES OF REPEALING DACA

At the end of June, two developments – most notably a letter from 10 Republican Attorneys General threatening to sue the President if he doesn't end DACA by September 5th – have made clear that Dreamers are under imminent threat. Repealing DACA would put the nearly 800,000 Dreamers whom the program allows to work and live legally in the U.S. at immediate risk of being stripped of their work authorization and subject to deportation.

DACA is under immediate, existential threat by those who are undermining the President's statements that he will protect Dreamers. We need to sound the alarm. Within the next 60 days, DACA could be gone, putting 800,000 Dreamers at risk of immediate deportation. This could happen either by DACA being put on hold by the federal judge who has previously stated he opposes the program, or repealed by the administration.

We need the President to protect DACA and Dreamers - and we need every single Member of Congress and Senator to co-sponsor legislation that would allow Dreamers to work and live in the U.S. and demand a vote on the floor of the House and Senate.

THE NEED FOR CONGRESSIONAL ACTION

"We're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud," Trump told the magazine. "They got brought here at a very young age, they've worked here, they've gone to school here. Some were good students. Some have wonderful jobs. And they're in never-never land because they don't know what's going to happen."

- *President-elect Donald Trump, [Time Magazine](#), 12/8/16*

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WHAT IS DACA?

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals is a program for qualified young immigrants to obtain temporary relief from deportation and renewable employment authorization, valid for a period of two years. DACA recipients must reapply for the program every two years. The program itself can be revoked immediately on day one (all work permits cancelled) or could be cancelled where renewals are blocked.

To be eligible for DACA, applicants must meet stringent criteria, including:

- **Have arrived in the United States before their 16th birthday**
- **Have continuously lived in the country since 2007 (a period of at least nine years)**
- **Pass a thorough criminal background check (including fingerprinting) and remain in good legal standing**
- **Meet certain educational or military requirements**
- **Pay a \$465 nonrefundable application fee**

DACA helps immigration authorities prioritize enforcement by vetting young immigrants while providing them with a chance to contribute to their communities through gainful employment, higher education and/or military service. Nearly [90 percent](#) of DACA recipients — roughly 700,000 people — are employed and roughly [95 percent](#) are either working or in school.

The program has unlocked countless economic opportunities for roughly 750,000 young people. In addition to getting a job, DACA allows young immigrants to obtain driver's licenses, get health insurance, access basic health services, open bank accounts, pay taxes, enroll in college, take out mortgages and car loans, and provide for their families. Losing DACA would rip away these basic necessities from young immigrants who are integrated into American society, and would be a tremendous loss for these individuals, their families, and their communities. DACA has allowed Dreamers to work in every industry and at nearly every single major company in America.

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DACA Recipients have an Enormous Impact on the Economy

Removing 700,000 people from the workforce in a single day would cost \$433.4 billion in GDP loss over a decade. Other consequences include:

- [Six percent](#) of DACA recipients have also launched businesses that employ native-born American citizens. Without work authorization, those businesses would be forced to shutter, sending American workers to the unemployment rolls, and halting tax and economic contributions.
- Consumer purchasing power would shrink drastically. Almost [55 percent](#) of DACA recipients have purchased a vehicle, and more than one in ten — or [12 percent](#) — have purchased their first home. 750,000 American residents would no longer be able to pay taxes or pay back loans for mortgages, cars, and higher education.
- DACA repeal would divert limited enforcement resources from high security threats. DACA recipients have undergone biometric and biographical criminal background checks. Not only would a repeal drive 750,000 immigrants who have passed thorough background checks and are registered with the government back into the shadows, but it would waste enforcement resources.

DACA recipients include nurses who care for patients, teachers who educate students in classrooms across the country, and engineers who build American roads and bridges. These 750,000 young people are only able to live out in the open due to the removed threat of deportation and the opportunity to contribute economically. Without legislation that affords DACA like protections, there be severe consequences in the communities where they live and work.

- If DACA's protections are repealed (and legislation granting legal status hasn't been passed by that time), then those 750,000 Dreamers will immediately lose their jobs and be subject to deportation.
- If DACA renewals were barred, an average of 10,000 Dreamers would lose their jobs and protection from deportation every week for the next year and a half.

IN SUMMARY: Without deportation protections and work authorization — through this program or legislation — 750,000 Dreamers are at substantial risk. This is a problem that cannot be ignored. We strongly recommend that the administration not repeal DACA until there is a legislative solution that ensures current enrollees (and those who have similar backgrounds) are able to continue the life they are currently afforded.

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6%



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12%



of DACA recipients have purchased their first home.