

Pass a Clean Dream Act

On September 5, 2017, the Administration announced the decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) with a six-month delay, placing 800,000 Dreamers at risk of deportation. By refusing to hear a California legal case regarding DACA, the Supreme Court has granted Dreamers a temporary reprieve from detention and deportation at least through the fall. However, a permanent solution is still needed.

Dreamers are undocumented immigrant youth brought to the United States as young children, typically between the ages of two- and six-years. Under DACA, eligible Dreamers voluntarily shared their personal information with the federal government and passed extensive background checks, enabling them to live, work, and study without fear of deportation. Ending protections inflicts needless suffering, separates families, and will cost our economy billions over the next decade.

- **Congress must immediately pass a clean Dream Act that provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers without harming other immigrant groups.** This bipartisan bill would grant permanent residence status and provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers who graduate from U.S. high schools and attend college, enter the workforce, or enlist in the military. We believe the Dream Act should remain a “clean bill”—legislation without amendments attached. While DACA provided temporary relief, these young people deserve the chance to live, study, and work in the U.S. without constant fear of detention and deportation.
- **Effective enforcement can only be accomplished as part of comprehensive immigration reform that balances security standards with the protection of civil and human rights.** Congress should only support bipartisan legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and reject partisan bills that seek to increase border security and enforcement with comprehensive reform. JCPA believes that such reforms must uphold American values of refugee protection, family reunification, and economic opportunity.
- **Enforcement actions conducted in homes and workplaces should be narrowly tailored, respectful of human rights, and conducted in a manner consistent with due process.** Such action can cause needless trauma and hardship, separating families and threatening the basic rights of immigrants and U.S. citizens alike. Enforcement efforts—particularly detention and deportation—should not target or unintentionally ensnare undocumented immigrants seeking economic opportunities who have committed no crime other than illegally crossing the border.

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The Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA) is the hub of the Jewish community relations network, representing over 125 local Jewish community relations councils and 16 national Jewish agencies. Together our network builds

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