

October 3, 2017  
United States Senate  
Judiciary Committee

Dear Senators,

The 57 undersigned local, state, and national immigrant, civil rights, faith-based and labor organizations, write to express our strong support for the DREAM Act (S. 1615) and serious concerns about the SUCCEED Act (S. 1852), as the reality is that it would fail the immigrant youth community in more ways than one. This bill fails to fully recognize Dreamers as the Americans we believe they are by forcing them to wait an extremely long period of time before being allowed to apply for citizenship, undermining their due process rights, and leaving their families behind.

The Dream Act of 2017 is the only bipartisan proposal that would provide a clear and reasonable pathway to citizenship to a wide range of DACA recipients and other immigrant youth who satisfy the bill's higher education, employment, military, or employment requirements. The DREAM Act of 2017 reflects the full diversity and talents of the undocumented youth population, including those who have not pursued a traditional college education or military service. A recent analysis shows that 1.5 million young people could potentially complete the Dream Act's path to citizenship, compared to 938,000 under proposals like the Recognizing America's Children (RAC) Act (H.R. 1468) and even fewer for the SUCCEED Act.

While we recognize that Senator Tillis, Senator Lankford, and Senator Hatch seek an urgent legislative solution to this crisis, we are deeply concerned about this legislation for the following reasons:

**S. 1852 would fail the Dreamer community by:**

- **Requiring the longest pathway to citizenship than any other DACA-related bill.** S. 1852 would require applicants to wait an extremely long period of 15 years before they can apply for citizenship. If we have come together agreeing that Dreamers are American in all ways but their paperwork, we should not make a 16-year-old who knows no other place as home wait until they are 31 to apply for citizenship. This simply does not make sense.
- **Excluding many people from protection.** The bill would exclude people convicted of minor offenses (including traffic offences) and additionally would place them in expedited removal—a serious violation of due process.
- **Severely undermining Dreamer's due process rights.** S. 1852 would require Dreamers to relinquish nearly all other forms of immigration protection and relief and additionally agree to be subject to expedited removal should they not meet the set requirements for their status. This means a student who is forced to drop out of school due to extreme circumstances, such as extreme financial hardship or to care for an ailing family member, before meeting the education requirements could be placed under deportation proceedings after signing away their right to fight their case. This is not a compassionate approach to the situation Dreamers are in.
- **Undermining the due process rights of nonimmigrants who accidentally violate terms of their visa.** The bill would waive any rights of relief of those who accidentally overstay their visa as little as 24 hours or who unintentionally violate a term of their visa. For example, a student who drops just below a full course of study would be forced to waive any rights of relief they would otherwise be eligible for.

- **Excluding the family members of those it is intended to protect.** The bill would likely not allow Dreamers to later sponsor their children and spouses once they have obtained legal permanent residence. This exclusion of family sponsorship would be discrimination against Dreamers and their families. We cannot protect Dreamers while leaving their families at risk for deportation and family separation.
- **Creating extreme hurdles for young immigrants who have to work while pursuing a college education.** S. 1852 would bar these young immigrants from support programs proven to help low-income families and students succeed. Barring Dreamers from access to these programs is not only unnecessary, but instead only serves to make the pathway to citizenship more difficult for Dreamers.
- **Additionally restricting the President's parole authority while also eliminating current humanitarian parole programs.** Existing programs that bring medical professionals to the United States, provide relief to former veterans, military families, and other populations deemed as requiring humanitarian protection would be eliminated. We cannot include such callous provisions in a bill in which we seek to extend compassion towards a group of people.

For these reasons, the 57 undersigned organizations cannot support S. 1852, the SUCCEED Act, as a viable pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and instead continue to support the swift and clean passage of the bipartisan and bicameral DREAM Act. The almost 800,000 young immigrants whose lives are hanging in the balance cannot afford to wait any longer. We urge every member of this committee to work together to provide immediate relief to the young immigrants anxiously awaiting action from Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act.

We thank you for your time on this important matter.

Sincerely,

**National**

America's Voice  
 Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
 Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
 Church World Service  
 Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
 Freedom Network USA  
 Girls Inc.  
 Hispanic Federation  
 Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
 Indivisible  
 Japanese American Citizens League  
 Lambda Legal  
 Latino Victory Project  
 LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
 Mi Familia Vota  
 Muslim Public Affairs Council  
 NAACP  
 National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
 National Association for College Admission Counseling  
 National Association of Social Workers

National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latina Institute of Reproductive Health  
National Organization for Women  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
United We Dream  
Voto Latino  
We Belong Together  
YWCA USA

**State**

Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA  
California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)  
Equality California  
Equality New Mexico  
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)  
Korean Resource Center  
Make the Road New York  
Nebraska Appleseed  
OneAmerica  
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition  
Voces de la Frontera

**Local**

Alliance San Diego  
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos  
HANA Center  
International Institute of the Bay Area  
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium