

DACA

The DREAM Act was first proposed to Congress in 2001. This act was a legislative measure to provide a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who were brought into the United States as children. At the time, DREAM was an acronym for The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors. This bill failed to pass the Senate. Roughly twenty more bills were proposed and failed between the initial fail in 2001, and the creation of DACA in June 2012. On June 15, 2012, then-United States President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, more commonly known as DACA. This program promised to ensure children who were brought into the United States illegally the right to remain in the country without fear of being deported. DACA went on to give hundreds of thousands of people who entered into the country illegally as children two-year renewable permits to live and work within the United States borders. To qualify for one of these permits, they were required to have come into the country prior to their 16th birthday, been under the age of 31 at the time of issuing, finished high school or served in the military, and have clean criminal records.

On September 5, 2017, Trump ended DACA, giving Congress six months to pass a permanent fix. At this point, the program had protected nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants brought to the nation as children from being deported. On January 10, 2018, a federal judge in California ruled that Trump could not simply put an abrupt end to the program for people who were currently protected by it. From January 20 to 22, 2018, government funding briefly lapsed over the disagreement about how to fix the problems surrounding DACA. On February 15, 2018, a bipartisan proposal to strengthen border security and solve DACA's major

issues failed. On February 26, 2018, the Supreme Court said that they planned on staying out of the DACA fight for the time being, likely tabling it for a year or more.

While this program that has shielded hundreds of thousands of young people from deportation was scheduled to end Monday, court orders have forced the Trump administration to continue issuing renewals. In September, Trump claimed that he was planning on putting a final end to DACA, but decided to allow Congress six months to develop a legislative solution. Those whose permits were set to expire by the fifth of March had only one month to apply for a renewal. In January of this year, Trump lodged a trail to citizenship for 1.8 million fairly young immigrants as one part of a larger immigration package. This package was set to include \$25 billion for a wall along with other strong border enforcement measures, as well as intense cuts to legal immigration. The Senate ended up rejecting this proposal, and immigrants, their advocates, and allies within Congress began requesting a more precise and protective bill that would even, perhaps, limit border control somewhat.

The Trump administration has, so far, shown no interest in carrying out these requests in their next proposal. Congress will need to pass a spending bill by the 23rd of March to continue the government running, providing Democrats with a chance to constrain support and approval on a DACA bill.