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Farm Workers & Dreamers

Who are the Dreamers?

Of the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States more than a million of them are “Dreamers”, undocumented young people who were brought to the U.S. as minors and have spent the majority of their lives in the U.S. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was a national policy initiated in 2012 that helps Dreamers by providing temporary protection status with the ability to reapply every 2 years. DACA helps Dreamers who have no criminal record and are in school (or graduated) or serve in the military to apply for a stay of immigration status and a halt of deportation.

In 2017 the Trump Administration announced an end to the DACA program in March 2018.

Dream Act

The Dream Act would provide Dreamers the opportunity to apply for permanent legal status and eventually become eligible for U.S. citizenship. It would also stop the deportation of undocumented immigrants who have been continuously physically present in the United States for four years preceding the bill's enactment, were younger than 18 when they were first brought to the United States, and have no criminal record. In addition, eligible undocumented immigrants must be in school (or have graduated), or be serving in the military (or have received an honorable discharge). After maintaining lawful permanent resident status for five years, these Dreamers would then be able to apply to become U.S. citizens. February 2018, the Senate considered several proposals that would have provided a path to citizenship for the more than a million Dreamers in the United States. All of the proposals failed to receive the 60 votes needed to proceed in the Senate.

Farm Workers

18% of immigrant farm workers are between the ages of 14 and 24 years old with many of them who are Dreamers themselves. Adult farm workers have families including children that are Dreamers. 49% of immigrant farm workers live in a household with children under 18. A change to the legislation will get us closer to ending discrimination, and will ensure that the youth in the farm worker community are able to afford and attend school, opening the door to knowledge and opportunities.