

Peace & Justice Report

For the week of December 8, 2017

History of the Dream Act

The first version of the **D**evelopment, **R**elief, and **E**ducation for **A**lien **M**inors (DREAM) Act was introduced in 2001. As a result, young undocumented immigrants have since been called **Dreamers**. Over the last 16 years, numerous versions of the Dream Act have been introduced, all of which would have provided a pathway to legal status for undocumented youth who came to this country as children.

Current Federal Legislative Proposals

The most recent versions of the Dream Act were introduced in July 2017, in the Senate by Senators Lindsay Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) and in the House by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL).

What Does the Dream Act do?

The Senate version of the Dream Act, introduced in July 2017, allows current, former, and future undocumented high-school graduates and GED recipients a **three-step pathway** (criteria) to U.S. citizenship through college, work, or the armed services.

ACT NOW: Please consider contacting your representatives and asking them to take action to pass the bi-partisan Dream Act that provides legal status for immigrant youth and does not jeopardize the safety and livelihood of other immigrants in the United States.

You can call the Capitol Switchboard at: 202-224-3121

Sample Script:

Hello, my name is [first name] and I'm calling to ask [Representative or Senator's name] to please support the bi-partisan Dream Act that provides permanent legal status for immigrant youth and is clean of provisions that further harm immigrants in our communities. More than 100 immigrant youth are losing their DACA protections every day.

In this season of reflection, I'm thankful for Dreamers, and I hope the legislator does everything s/he can right now to protect these individuals and their families. Thank you.



An Advent Prayer for Immigrants

God of compassion and hope, let us use our spiritual energies to help those in need and to protect the immigrants and the stranger, the poor, and all those who are vulnerable and under attack. Let us remember the robust life of Mary, our Mother, and live in her footsteps in the name of her Son. Amen.

(Archdiocese of Chicago)