



## Comparison of Dreamer Protection Legislation

The Friends Committee on National Legislation advocates for Congress to pass legislation that offers immigrants who grew up in the United States and are undocumented – also known as Dreamers – an opportunity to work towards citizenship. FCNL’s priorities for Dreamer protection legislation include:

- Enacting a path to citizenship for the largest number of young immigrants who entered the United States as children and grew up here.
- Outlining a path to citizenship that is swift and easy to navigate, without requiring Dreamers to fulfill excessive or harsh requirements.
- Ensuring that Dreamers and other immigrants’ safety and opportunities to access the U.S. immigration system are not threatened.
- Enacting protections into law without exacerbating existing injustices within the U.S. immigration system, which currently separates families, keeps too many people in detention, and infringes upon the civil and human rights of immigrants and citizens alike.

Pertaining to these priorities, we put together a comparison of four different Dreamer protection bills – the BRIDGE Act, SUCCEED Act, RAC Act, and Dream Act. FCNL considers the eligibility provisions and pathway to citizenship outlined in the Dream Act to be the best option available for Dreamers. It is the only bipartisan bill with an identical version in both chambers.

### Definitions

**CPR:** Conditional Permanent Residency – This is a conditional status that requires individuals to stay in compliance with certain requirements. Both the SUCCEED and RAC Acts have bars for inadmissibility, deportability, and revocation of CPR status.

**LPR:** Lawful Permanent Residency – once applicants have accomplished certain requirements they can apply for LPR/a green card and then follow process to naturalization and citizenship.

### Other Considerations

All of the bills have bars for inadmissibility around certain convictions of misdemeanors and felonies. Bars under SUCCEED are the most stringent. Of all the bills, the Dream Act is the most forgiving for prior run-ins with the criminal justice system, although the RAC Act has a slightly better provision regarding multiple misdemeanor convictions.

Under SUCCEED, individuals must also sign waiver barring them from most immigration relief – e.g. most work or protective visas, or obtaining a green card through family sponsorship – if terms of CPR status are violated.

Unrelated to Dreamers, SUCCEED also waives the right for individuals who overstay their visas to see an immigration judge and bars them from almost all other immigration relief. It also curbs the authority of the President to grant humanitarian or other kinds of parole to certain populations. SUCCEED also would prolong family separation by needlessly barring Dreamers from sponsoring their children or spouse after obtaining LPR status, even though LPRs are generally eligible to sponsor these family members.

### More detailed analysis

National Immigrant Law Center, 2017 Legislation to Protect DACA Recipients/Immigrant Youth: <https://www.nilc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Dream-2017-legislation-compared.pdf>

American Immigration Lawyers Association Policy Brief, How Dreamer Protection Bills Measure Up: <http://www.aila.org/infonet/how-dreamer-protection-bills-measure-up>

|  | The BRIDGE Act – H.R. 496 / S. 128   | The SUCCEED Act – S. 1852  | The Recognizing America’s Children (RAC) Act – H.R. 1468  | The Dream Act of 2017 – H.R. 3440 / S. 1615   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| Basic Requirements for Eligibility                     | <p>Been in the country since <b>June 15, 2007</b> and entered the country before <b>age of 16</b>. (Aligns with the requirements of DACA.)</p> <p>Need to have earned a high school diploma, been honorably discharged from the military, or be in school.</p> | <p>Must have been in the country since <b>June 15, 2012</b> and entered the country before the <b>age of 16</b>. Under age 31 on June 15, 2012.</p> <p>Need to be in college, have earned a high school diploma, or served in the military. If under 18, must be in school.</p>  | <p>Must have been in the country since <b>January 1, 2012</b> and entered the country before the <b>age of 16</b>.</p> <p>Need to be in college, have earned a high school diploma, or have valid work authorization. If under 18, exempted from initial requirement.</p>   | <p>Must have been in the country for <b>4 years</b> before the enactment of the bill and entered the country before the <b>age of 18</b>.</p> <p>Need to be admitted to college, have earned a high school diploma, or be enrolled in school. DACA recipients are automatically eligible.</p>                                     |
| Earliest Possible Eligibility to Apply for Citizenship | <p><b>None</b>. Extends temporary protection from deportation and work authorization for three years.</p>  | <p><b>After 15 years</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required 5 year CPR</li> <li>- Renewed 5 year CPR</li> <li>- 5 years LPR</li> </ul>   | <p><b>After 10 years</b> including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Required 5 year CPR</li> <li>- Renewed CPR</li> <li>- 5 years LPR</li> </ul>   | <p><b>After 5 years</b> individuals who have been granted CPR and satisfied all requirements could apply for LPR.</p>   |
| Stages and Requirements to adjust status               | <p>N/A</p>   | <p>Individuals must first sign a waiver barring them from future immigration eligibility if they violate terms of CPR.</p> <p>Once approved for initial CPR they must maintain it for a required 5 years. Individuals must complete certain requirements to <b>reapply</b> for a secondary CPR for another required 5 years. Individuals must stop accessing certain public benefits to qualify for the second CPR.</p> <p>Before being eligible to apply for a green card/LPR, they must complete additional work, education, or military requirements. They must maintain LPR status for 5 years before applying for naturalization.</p> | <p>Individuals must maintain initial CPR for a required 5 years and complete certain requirements to <b>reapply</b> to renew CPR for <i>up to</i> 5 years</p> <p>Before being eligible to apply for a green card/LPR, individuals must complete additional work, education, or military requirements. They must maintain LPR status for 5 years before applying for naturalization.</p> | <p>After obtaining initial CPR status, individuals must complete certain work, education, or military requirements before being eligible to apply for LPR.</p> <p>Individuals can maintain initial CPR status for up to 8 years. Time in CPR status counts towards 5 year permanent residence requirement for naturalization.</p> |