



Friends Committee on National Legislation

A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest

October 31, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) urges the immediate passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440).

FCNL's Quaker faith compels us to see and answer to the Light of God in every person. Our pursuit of just immigration policies is built off of that faith principle. Congress has yet to act for Dreamers, the millions of immigrants who grew up in the United States as children and have no opportunity to pursue legal status. Dreamers strengthen our schools, workplaces, and homes. Many have U.S. citizen children, spouses, and siblings. They are our friends, coworkers, classmates, and family, and have worked tirelessly to be afforded a chance to fully thrive in our shared nation. Congress must act to protect them from deportation.

Undocumented immigrants are integral to communities in every state. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has allowed Dreamers to thrive and contribute to society without fear of deportation. The cancellation of DACA leaves around 700,000 young immigrants facing imminent threat of deportation again. Without congressional action, millions of Dreamers will continue to be caught in limbo forced to make impossible choices between their family, community, stability, livelihoods, and legality.

For over fifteen years, FCNL has pursued legislation that recognizes Dreamers' contributions to the country they grew up in. The Dream Act of 2017 provides an opportunity for U.S. citizenship for immigrants who entered the country when they were younger than 18. If passed, Dreamers could pursue work, education, or military service in order to qualify for a green card and citizenship in this country we all call home. The Dream Act is the only bipartisan, bicameral solution and the best option for Dreamers and our nation.

FCNL urges you to work together to realize our national values of justice and equity, and to set generations of American families up for success. We implore you to pass the Dream Act as an important step toward redefining a values-driven immigration system. Current federal policies have the effect of tearing more families apart, putting more migrants in danger, increasing the number of people detained, or leaving communities ripe for abuse in the name of border security. For the sake of Dreamers and our pursuit of a more just world, Congress must pass the Dream Act without attaching it to increased enforcement.

FCNL and Quakers across the country are calling on members of Congress to pass the Dream Act as a matter of faith. We have faith in the Light of God present in every Dreamer. We have commitment to the communities who have welcomed Dreamers throughout their lives. And we have confidence that our nation will be stronger when we give Dreamers an equitable chance to thrive.

We pray that you, our nation's leaders, will step up to this moral call and pass the Dream Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

Diane E. Randall
Executive Secretary