Calling on the Trump Administration and Congress to Protect DREAMers

Given the arbitrary deadline of October 5, 2017 for all eligible DACA recipients to submit their renewal application, the Trump Administration has created a nearly impossible hurdle for the 154,000 who will need to meet the deadline. With legal organizations and other nonprofit organizations working around the clock to do outreach and ensure that all have access to supports, they would need to process over 200 applications every hour, 24/7 – that is over 5,000 a week. We must push the deadline back to allow for these individuals to make it through the procedure and raise the money it costs to renew.

Now is also the time to urge Congress for a permanent protection for the 800,000 DREAMers who have been given a deadline for their temporary deferral. DACA recipients will begin to fall out of status as of March 6, 2018 (or sooner, if they are unable to meet the deadline). There are currently several pieces of legislation (many of which are bipartisan), that could provide this much needed permanency. In the Senate, we are calling for a clean DREAM Act 2017, which would provide a path to citizenship without tying in border restrictions and enforcement requirements. A comparable bill has been introduced in the House, called the American Hope Act. We must equally be vigilant of all efforts to pass immigration reform that would target specific populations and destroy traditional paths to citizenship, such as the RAISE Act that was introduced in the Senate.

The October 5th deadline is arbitrary - Join advocacy efforts to push the administration to move the deadline back to January 5, 2018 to buy more time for eligible DACA recipients to submit their renewal application and $495 fee.

The DREAM Act - Reintroduced in 2017 by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY) - would create a path to citizenship in the future for those eligible. NILC produced a reader friendly summary of the DREAM Act here.

American Hope Act - Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-IL) - provides the legislative solutions to permanently protect DREAMers regardless of educational level, military service or work history. United We Dream produced a reader friendly summary of the American Hope Act here.

RAISE Act - Sens. Tom Cotton (R-AR) and David Perdue (R-GA) “The two major proposals in the legislation create deep cuts to family-based immigration and the creation of a points system for the selection of immigrants coming via employer sponsorship.” The Migration Policy Institute has a reader friendly summary of the RAISE Act that goes into further detail about the pathways that would be affected here.

These are the lawmakers that are the key swing votes for the DREAM Act – reach out today and tell them to support the DREAM Act. For economic facts about DREAMers, click here.

Find your legislators here and tell them to support legislation like the DREAM Act and the American Hope Act that will permanently protect our DREAMers. We must equally oppose harmful legislation, like the RAISE Act.