

## DACA: Protect Dreams



Via Twitter @Matthewclausen

America is known as the land of freedom. The place to pursue dreams and for a better future. Unfortunately, for 800, 000 undocumented immigrants, these hopes are broken. On Tuesday, the Trump administration announced they were rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. They are also known as Dreamers.

This is disheartening and cruel. We all have family members, friends, and neighbors who are part of the Dreamers. DACA is not a pass but rather a route for a better livelihood for these people.

What is forgotten by the Trump administration is that Dreamers came to this country as kids. Their parents brought them to escape poverty and danger from their original homes.

The parents wanted opportunities to raise their kids in a country where all your dreams are possible.

Applying to be part of DACA isn't a walk in the park, they must follow specific requirements from paying fees, renewing processes, and having a clean background. Dreamers have assimilated and became part of what makes the United States diverse. DACA has allowed them to get work permits, driver's licenses, and even own a home.

They are part of America as much as you and I are.

Ending DACA is breaking homes, families, and mostly the American dream. Dreamers are living in fear because of the uncertainty and what happens next. Dreamers are doctors, lawyers, teachers and people who are bettering their future. Sending them back to their original country is not the answer. America is their home. How can all their hard work be taken away from an administration that is living in fear, racism and hate.

When I first heard about DACA being taken away, my friends came to mind. I have gotten to know their stories first hand. I saw them get their first job. I saw them accomplish their biggest dream of getting a Bachelor's degree. I see them now working in their careers and helping people. Now, all that their efforts can be taken away in a blink of an eye. One thing that will never be taken away from them is their courage, determination and education. No matter how the Trump administration feels about these Dreamers, their perseverance will overcome another obstacle.

As the news broke on Tuesday, states all around the country are protesting. I was at the Caltrain station on my way to San Francisco when a young lady sat across from me and had a sign saying, "Protect The American Dreamers."

She told me she was on her way to protest and be on the side of the Dreamers. As I sat waiting for my stop, I looked around, and I saw a packed train with people. What caught my attention was a train full of people with different ethnicities and backgrounds. By taking away DACA, they are taking away diversity. They are taking away culture.

I was born in America, but my parents weren't. So I understand the sacrifice my parents made for a better future for my siblings. I know what it is to have dreams because of their selfless acts. I stand with you to continue to battle for your right. Fight for your future, and most importantly, continue to fight for your dream.

Here are some helpful links to stay updated:

<https://unitedwedream.org/>

<https://www.aclu.org/>

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/sign-pledge-to-defend-daca-tps-and-stop-deportations>

