

# Pass the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615 / H.R. 3440)



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**On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, NEA calls on Congress to pass a clean Dream Act swiftly. DACA recipients and Dreamers — people brought here as children — deserve the certainty and permanent protections the Dream Act provides.**

## BACKGROUND

- ▶ President Trump's heartless, unnecessary decision to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) jeopardizes the lives and futures of the 800,000 participants in the program.
- ▶ Every day, educators see firsthand how the decision to end DACA is hurting their students — many are consumed by stress and anxiety about what the future holds for them and their families.
- ▶ America's treatment of immigrants reflects the values that define us as a nation.
- ▶ Aspiring Americans deserve the certainty and opportunities immigration reform would bring.

## NEA SUPPORTS THE DREAM ACT OF 2017

- ▶ The Dream Act of 2017 — the most inclusive bipartisan legislative solution — gives DACA recipients and Dreamers the certainty and permanent protections they deserve.
- ▶ Multiple pathways to citizenship include higher education, military service, and employment.
- ▶ To qualify, individuals must have entered the United States as minors and have a continuous presence in the United States for four years before the date of the bill's enactment.

## RELATED BILLS *NOT* SUPPORTED BY NEA

Related bills that NEA does *not* support fall short of the Dream Act — they are more exclusive and narrowly tailored, and do not fully address current DACA recipients and those eligible for DACA. They include the:

- ▶ **Recognizing America's Children or RAC Act (H.R. 1468).** Introduced in March 2017, this Republican-sponsored bill provides no less than a 10-year pathway to citizenship via higher education, military service, or employment. The pathway is more narrowly tailored than that provided by the Dream Act. To qualify, individuals must have entered the United States before age 16 and have a continuous presence in the United States since January 1, 2012.
- ▶ **Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy or BRIDGE Act (S. 128/H.R. 496).** Introduced at the start of the 115th Congress, this bipartisan bill temporarily extends the DACA program for up to three years. A direct response to President Trump's threat to rescind all of President Obama's executive orders, it is no longer timely or viable. We need a *permanent* legislative solution.