

NALCAB IMMIGRATION ADVOCACY 2017 TOOLKIT



NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION FOR
LATINO
COMMUNITY
ASSET
BUILDERS

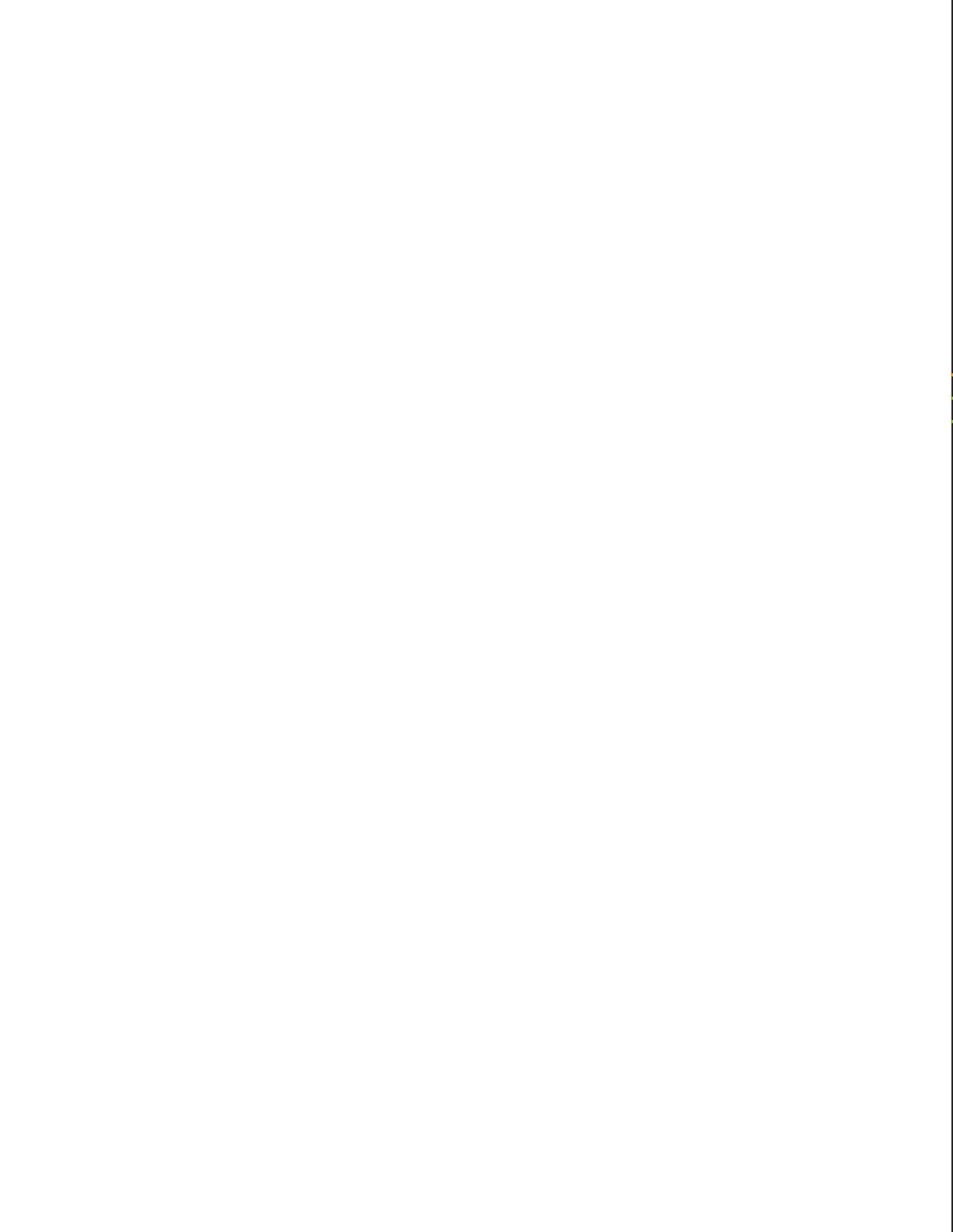


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Introduction

Congress has an opportunity to protect DREAMers by passing legislation to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA allows individuals who were brought to the United States as children without documentation to remain in the country and obtain work permits. The DACA program is economic common sense. It allows 800,000 motivated young people to contribute to the US economy.

Like many of you, NALCAB is actively engaged in supporting a long-term legislative solution to DACA. We recognize that our strength will come through our shared effort – juntos somos más. As such, it is our pleasure to offer this toolkit to amplify our collective voice and communicate the enormous economic contributions of DACA recipients and other Latino immigrants.

Below you will find sample talking points, tweets, and a sample letter to the editor template that we hope you will find useful in your advocacy efforts. We encourage you to engage on social media and in your local news outlets and to reach out to your elected officials and schedule an in-district meeting as soon as possible.

Sample Talking Points and Statistics

DACA has provided immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children an opportunity to achieve legal status

- Since 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided nearly 800,000 young people with deferred action thereby shielding them from possible deportation and providing them with the opportunity to live, study, and work in the only country many of them have ever known.

DACA recipients are young, American and contributing to the U.S. Economy; they are an essential part of America's future workforce

- The overwhelming majority of DACA recipients are employed, bilingual and all have passed background checks. On average, they are twenty-five years old, and arrived in the U.S. at less than seven years old ([Wong, Martinez Rosas, Luna, Manning, Reyna, O'Shea, Jawetz, Wolgin, 2017](#)).
- Nearly half are currently enrolled in school, a third possess a bachelor's degree or higher and of those currently enrolled over seventy percent are pursuing a minimum of a bachelor's degree ([Wong et al., 2017](#)).
- DACA recipients are employed by 18 of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies, over 5% have launched businesses, and many are employing American citizens ([Wong et al., 2016](#)).
- Almost 65% have purchased a vehicle and more than one in ten have purchased their first home ([Wong et al., 2016](#)).
- DACA recipients are our coworkers, teachers and nurses, they are our friends and neighbors, and they are a rich and vibrant part of the fabric of America.

Deporting DACA recipients would hurt states' economies and cost the federal government billions in lost revenue.

- According to a study by the Center of American Progress, the loss of all DACA workers would reduce U.S. gross domestic product by \$433 billion over the next 10 year and the economic impact would be felt unevenly across the country ([Mathema, 2017](#)).

- California, with an estimated 188,000 DACA workers, would suffer a GDP loss of \$11.3 billion a year. Texas would lose \$6.1 billion in GDP annually, Illinois would lose \$2.2 billion a year, and North Carolina and Arizona, 1.3 and 1.2 billion, respectively ([Mathema, 2017](#)).
- With mass deportation, states with the most unauthorized workers will experience the largest declines in state GDP; California GDP would fall by an estimated \$11.6 billion each year, and Texas GDP would fall by an estimated \$6.3 billion each year ([Svajlenka Jawetz, Bautista-Chavez, 2017](#)).
- Similarly, a policy of mass deportation would immediately reduce the nation's GDP initially by 1.4 percent, and ultimately by 2.6 percent, and reduce cumulative GDP over 10 years by \$4.7 trillion ([Edwards and Ortega, 2016](#)).
- •A policy of immediate mass deportation would cost the federal government \$60 billion in tax revenue and would reduce national economic growth by \$280 billion over the next ten years ([Brannon and Albright, 2017](#)).

Passing the Dream Act would add to the U.S. Economy

- Passing the Dream Act would add a total of \$22.7 billion annually to the U.S. GDP for a cumulative increase of \$281 billion over 10 years. And, if even half of all workers who are immediately eligible for the Dream Act completed the educational requirements to move from conditional status to lawful permanent residency the annual gains could be even higher, reaching as high as \$728.4 billion cumulatively over a decade ([Ortega, Edwards, Wolgin, 2017](#)).

Passing the Dream Act is the first step in a comprehensive effort to overhaul our immigration laws

Sample Tweets

DREAMers are our colleagues, friends, and family who make our country stronger. Together we must take a stand and defend these immigrants #DACA

We stand with our community, family, and friends #DACA #HeretoStay

Deporting 800k #DREAMers out of our country won't fix our economy, but it will speak to our values #DefendDACA

We stand we #DREAMers. Now Congress must do the same and take action to #DefendDACA

Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is just economic common sense and [Insert your organization name] calls on Congress to protect DREAMers by passing legislation to continue the DACA program. At [Insert your organization name] we work to strengthen economic opportunity in [insert your organization's service region] and we see first-hand the enormous economic contributions DACA recipients (or DREAMers) offer this country. Today, the threats and uncertainties facing DREAMers are real, but so too is the opportunity for political leaders to come together to create a fairer system of immigration that works for DREAMers and other immigrants.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides the opportunity to work and attend school without living in fear of deportation to immigrants who arrived in this country as children without documentation. These are young people who have been raised in the United States since they were children. Over the course of its five-year history, DACA has provided a path for hundreds of thousands of young immigrants to contribute to our country every day.

The DACA program is not only morally right but it also provides our country with a valuable source of economic strength. DREAMers are important economic

contributors, and this program unlocks their economic potential for our country. The Institute on Tax and Economic Policy estimates that the 1.3 million young undocumented immigrants enrolled or immediately eligible for DACA contribute an estimated \$2 billion a year in state and local taxes. Continuing the DACA program would increase estimated state and local revenue by \$425 million, bringing the total contribution to \$2.45 billion. Repealing the temporary legal status and work authorizations permitted by DACA would reduce estimated state and local revenues by nearly \$800 million, and drop the total contributions to just over \$1.2 billion annually.

DACA recipients are more than just numbers. They are sons, daughters, parents, neighbors, and colleagues. They are students, teachers, doctors, and scientist. But above all, DACA recipients are our brothers and sisters who are members of the American familia. We have a direct moral obligation to help those who, through no fault of their own, came to this country as children to escape harsh circumstances. Woven into the American spirit is the commitment to help those who seek a better life. This is part of America's tradition of welcoming immigrants.

That is why we applaud measures like the Dream Act, recently reintroduced by U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsay Graham (R-SC). This bill would offer DREAMers a path to earned citizenship and would provide them, and our nation, with a road to a better tomorrow. We are hopeful that members of Congress will share our view on this issue.

We understand the greater debate surrounding comprehensive immigration reform, but the lives of thousands of young, hardworking immigrants hang in the balance. Let us come together at this pivotal time and stand for DREAMers and immigrants of all kind, because it is our duty to help those seeking the American Dream. Now is the time to act.

Sincerely,

[Your Name,

Organization Name

Address

Telephone Number]



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