

DREAM DEFERRED: THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT IMMIGRANT YOUTH

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY UNITED STATES SENATE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

MAY 8, 2024

Serial No. J-118-65

Printed for the use of the Committee on the Judiciary



*www.judiciary.senate.gov
www.govinfo.gov*

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 2026

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RICHARD J. DURBIN, Illinois, *Chair*

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, Rhode Island	LINDSEY O. GRAHAM, South Carolina,
AMY KLOBUCHAR, Minnesota	<i>Ranking Member</i>
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, Delaware	CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, Iowa
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, Connecticut	JOHN CORNYN, Texas
MAZIE K. HIRONO, Hawaii	MICHAEL S. LEE, Utah
CORY A. BOOKER, New Jersey	TED CRUZ, Texas
ALEX PADILLA, California	JOSH HAWLEY, Missouri
JON OSSOFF, Georgia	TOM COTTON, Arkansas
PETER WELCH, Vermont	JOHN KENNEDY, Louisiana
LAPHONZA BUTLER, California	THOM TILLIS, North Carolina
	MARSHA BLACKBURN, Tennessee

JOSEPH ZOGBY, *Majority Staff Director*

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Minority Staff Director*

CONTENTS

OPENING STATEMENTS

	Page
Durbin, Hon. Richard J.	1
Graham, Hon. Lindsey O.	3
Padilla, Hon. Alex	4
Cornyn, Hon. John	6

WITNESSES

Nobles, Tammy	15
Prepared statement	48
Pacheco, Maria Gabriela	16
Prepared statement	50
Soto-Rodrigueze, Mitchell	10
Prepared statement	54
Vaughan, Jessica M.	12
Prepared statement	56
Wong, Tom K.	13
Prepared statement	66

APPENDIX

Items submitted for the record	47
--------------------------------------	----

DREAM DEFERRED: THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT IMMIGRANT YOUTH

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

UNITED STATES SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:04 a.m., in Room 106, Dirksen Senate Office Building, Hon. Richard J. Durbin, Chair of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Durbin [presiding], Whitehouse, Klobuchar, Coons, Blumenthal, Hirono, Booker, Padilla, Ossoff, Welch, Butler, Graham, Grassley, Cornyn, Hawley, Kennedy, Tillis, and Blackburn.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. RICHARD J. DURBIN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF ILLINOIS

Chair DURBIN. This hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee will come to order. Today, the Senate Judiciary Committee will discuss the contributions of Dreamers to their communities and our country and the need for Congress to finally, finally take action to protect them.

Twenty-four years ago, I met a young woman in Chicago named Tereza Lee. She had the opportunity to go to the Manhattan Conservatory of Music, but she learned when she started to fill out her application—for the first time learned that she was undocumented, even though she had been brought to the United States and had lived here since she was 2 years old. She was confused, afraid, and searching for options to pursue her dreams in the only country she ever called home.

I checked into it. The laws were brutal. It required her to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to return. I was frustrated by the lack of options in our immigration system for these young people who were brought here as children and infants by their parents. Tereza inspired me to introduce the DREAM Act. I started to speak in Illinois and on the Senate floor about the challenges these young Americans faced. Their stories stay with us because we see ourselves reflected in them.

Many Dreamers would approach and whisper to me, sometimes with great fear, obvious fear, Senator, I'm one of those children you're talking about. More than two decades later, Dreamers are not whispering anymore. I'm proud to see them, like some of our witnesses today, become fierce advocates for America to live up to its promise of equal justice. I want to share a short video in which several Dreamers tell their stories in their own words.

[Video is shown.]

Chair DURBIN. Well, it was 23 years ago when I first introduced the DREAM Act, with the late Senate—late Republican—retired Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, to provide relief for these young Americans. We actually had a debate between Senator Hatch and myself as to who would be the lead sponsor. The first 2 years, he won the debate, and he was the lead sponsor on our bill. Unfortunately, he didn't continue to support it over the years, but I'm happy that my colleague and partner across the aisle, Ranking Member Lindsey Graham, here, has joined me as the lead co-sponsor for this legislation for the past several Congresses. I genuinely thank you for your support.

While a bipartisan majority of Senators has supported the DREAM Act on numerous occasions, unfortunately it has been filibustered when it comes to the floor. Because of Congress's inaction, at the urging of myself and the late Republican Senator Richard Lugar, President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, better known as DACA, in 2012. More than 830,000 Dreamers have been protected by DACA since 2012. For the record, DACA requires reapplication every 2 years and a thorough background check for everyone who qualifies for DACA.

Thanks to DACA, many young people have been able to pursue higher education, start businesses, buy homes, and raise families. DACA allows Dreamers to match their talents to labor market needs, increase their wages, and contribute to the American economy. Researchers estimate that in 2022, DACA recipients earned \$27.9 billion and contributed nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare. This program has helped so many young Americans come out of the shadows and into the light. I have shared many of their stories over the years, over 140 times on the floor of the Senate. I look forward to hearing directly from some of them today.

Officer Mitchell Soto-Rodriguez today is one of these people. Ongoing litigation brought by Republican attorneys general threaten everything that DACA recipients have built in this country. Even if the courts find, as they should, that DACA is lawful, a future administration can try to end the program. We saw this when the former President attempted to eliminate DACA, and clearly he would try again if he's given a chance.

Sadly, many Dreamers cannot access the DACA program today. Almost 100,000 Dreamers have had their applications and lives placed on hold by court battles, and many other Dreamers are ineligible for DACA because they arrived too late to qualify. DACA was always intended to be a temporary, stopgap program until Congress acts on a permanent solution. The time is long past due for Congress to do our part and provide a path to citizenship to Dreamers. Poll after poll shows that the vast majority of Americans agree. Both sides of the aisle. And when we establish this path to citizenship, all Americans realize we'll reap benefits from that experience.

Let me add that Congress should act also to secure our border. These are not mutually exclusive goals at all. Unfortunately, one would-be Presidential candidate stopped a bipartisan effort on the floor, just weeks ago, to try to deal with border security. I hope that they will relent and the Republicans will join the Democrats

in a bipartisan effort. James Lankford, a conservative Republican from Oklahoma, led the effort, and we should honor him by passing this bill. I now recognize Senator Graham for opening statements.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. LINDSEY O. GRAHAM,
A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've enjoyed working with you on the Dreamer issue. It is a very sympathetic group of people that came here as young people, without being asked to be brought, and spent a lot of time in America, with generally no place to go. And I understand that, very much so. Unfortunately, since we started this discussion, the last 3 years have been a complete, utter disaster for American immigration policy. I'll start with the numbers here.

When you and I first started talking about comprehensive immigration reform, we were talking about what to do about the 11 million. We thought there were about 11 million people here illegally. If you were a felon, you had to leave. You had to take an English exam. You had to, you know, not be a criminal, pay a fine, get in line. That sort of all made sense. Eleven million people is a lot of folks, but we were trying to manage that population.

Since President Biden's taken office, 7.7 have come in. Some people believe it's closer to ten. So, the last 3 years have been a complete, utter disaster. The American people have suffered, particularly the border communities and States. The policies of this administration have proven to us, as Republicans over here, that there really is no serious effort to control this. Senator Lankford—I appreciate his efforts. The folks, not just President Trump himself but Chad Wolf and others, thought that the bill was inadequate to the task in terms of border security.

So, the bottom line now for us is, if you legalize anybody in this environment, whatever problems you have get exponentially worse. So, I don't ever see anything on the DREAM Act coming anytime soon until we stop the abuse of parole and some underlying problems. And right now, my concern is different than yours. You're concerned about the DACA population. I think we should all be concerned. I'm most concerned about a border completely open and the FBI director saying that wherever he looks, he sees blinking lights.

So, fixing DACA is not my concern right now. My concern is regaining control over our sovereignty that's been lost, trying to deal with the rise of terrorism throughout the world, and make sure another 9/11 doesn't happen to America. I've never seen more threats to the country, writ large, than I do now. A broken border is a lethal cocktail, rising threats overseas and a broken border here. Fentanyl poisoning is a higher priority for me right now. It's not that I don't care about the Dreamers. I do. But you got more Americans dying, from 18 to 35, from fentanyl poisoning than any other cause.

So, that's my concern—is to try to get China to stop poisoning America, to do something with the drug cartels that are making billions of dollars sending drugs and human trafficking, to go after them. So, right now, you're going to find, at least on our side of the aisle, the biggest concerns are the crime associated with illegal im-

migration, the National security threats associated with illegal immigration, the poisoning of America associated with illegal immigration. To try to get control over chaos. That's my biggest concern, and until those concerns are addressed, nothing else is going to happen on legalization.

Chair DURBIN. I respect you very much. And we disagree on issues and agree on others. I'm glad for that. I cannot imagine how we can hold these young people accountable for what you're concerned with. They came here as children and infants. All they wanted to do is be part of the country that they pledged allegiance to in the flag in the classroom every single day. They go through extensive background checks to make sure that they have nothing in their background that raises any serious question. They work hard, under conditions which no other American faces. No financial assistance to go to college except by private means and an exceptional situation where they could be literally deported at any moment. I concur with you that the issues at the border are critical and important, and that's why I supported Lankford's bill. I think we need to return to that.

Senator GRAHAM. If I may, just very briefly—and I don't want to prolong the hearing, here. Number one, if we did start legalizing people now, I think you're sending a signal to keep coming. The DREAM Act population that exists today—I've tried to work with you to get a resolution. There've been seven to ten million people come in. What do we do about the young people in the last 3 years, brought here, no fault of their own? They've been here 3 years. I don't see—what do we do about them? I mean, are we going to have another round of DREAM Act with twice the number of people?

Is there any end to this, where people come, brought by their parents, and you wind up staying and becoming a citizen? If that's the model to get to be a citizen, it's never going to stop. I don't mind dealing with the DREAM Act population, but I don't want to incentivize endless waves of immigration. And that's what we would be doing.

Chair DURBIN. I've been asked by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Immigration Subcommittee if they could make statements. It's a little unusual, but I think it's appropriate today. Senator Padilla, you're first.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. ALEX PADILLA,
A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you all for being here today, and I want to thank both the Chairman and our Ranking Member, Senator Graham, for committing to this hearing on the urgent need to protect Dreamers in America. This is a matter that historically has enjoyed bipartisan support, including from Ranking Member Graham, who currently co-leads the DREAM Act with Senator Durbin.

Now, as we all know, Dreamers are a group of young people that, until earlier this year, actually, had been included in every immigration negotiation for nearly a quarter of a century. So, today I hope that we can join together to have an honest, focused conversation about how Congress can act to help the millions of Dreamers

living in the United States who have been in limbo for far too long. Now, colleagues, earlier this year you'll recall that in the annual State of the Union, President Biden himself recognized and committed to providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.

Sitting in the gallery that night was my guest for the State of the Union, Dr. Denisse Rojas-Marquez, a DACA recipient from California. After growing up and seeing family members lack access to basic health coverage, she dreamt of serving her community as a physician. Now, graduating from college and medical school and becoming a doctor is tough enough for anybody, but—additional barriers for those who aren't documented. But despite that, she went on to earn her medical degree and serve on the front lines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is not irrelevant, folks. Do you guys remember just a couple of years ago? Every night on the news, at four, people banged pots and pans out the window to show our appreciation for front-line workers, for essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic. Those workers included millions of long-term undocumented Americans, including doctors working in emergency rooms, like Dr. Rojas-Marquez. She's the embodiment of the American dream and the life-changing power of the DACA program.

But because of Congress's failure to act, even today, her dream and so many others are under constant threat. As we've heard today in the opening remarks from the Chairman, there are over 500,000 DACA recipients in the United States, and there's more than two million Dreamers. Now, everybody in this room is paying close attention. We can appreciate the distinctions between DACA and Dreamers, but for a lot of the general public, not so much.

Let's be clear about who we're talking about. When we say there's more than two million Dreamers, that's people who are eligible for DACA but may not be part of the program today, for a variety of reasons. Maybe they were, once upon a time, and aren't anymore, and that's part of the problem, because unlike DACA participants, current DACA participants, Dreamers that aren't in the program have no work authorization, and they enjoy no sort of even temporary protection from deportation.

Now, in the year 2024, we know the impact that millions of Dreamers can have and do have on our country. They're not just students. They don't just serve in the military. They're also consumers, contributing billions of dollars to the economy every single year, benefiting the Federal tax base, benefiting State tax revenues and the community services that those tax revenues provide. And yet DACA recipients are forced to plan their lives between court decisions and renewal applications, 2 years at a time, fearful of what the future might hold in the event of a bad court ruling.

Now, Dreamers who have lived in this country for years, since they arrived as children, live in uncertainty, in constant fear of deportation from the only home they've ever known. Whether you're a Democrat or a Republican, I think we can all agree that it is long past time to modernize our outdated immigration system. And as our Republican colleagues have begun to remind us today, that—yes, we also need to make sure that the border is secure, is orderly, and, I'll remind us, should also be humane, but we ought to be able to work to address the challenges at the border. Right?

It's a very different population. Those individuals, those families who are just now coming, trying to enter the United States, in many cases to seek asylum. It's a very different population than Dreamers and others who have been in the United States already for years and years, in some cases decades, working, contributing to the economy—the resilience of communities raising families. We've got to be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. We can't let one issue hold us up from making progress on another issue that both Democrats and Republicans are on the record, have publicly stated they're in support of.

So, we can and must work toward immigration reform that can provide certainty for these long-term immigrants we call Dreamers. And I'll end, Mr. Chairman, with just this. I'm hopeful, despite the exercise of the bipartisan negotiations from several months ago that left Dreamers out. It's wrong. That's not the new starting point for negotiations. Dreamers and others must be on the table in future proposals and votes. I think we ought to bring it to the floor for a vote. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, your names are on the DREAM Act today. Join me in asking Senator Schumer, Leader Schumer, to bring it for a vote and let the public know where each and every Senator stands on the DREAM Act and on helping Dreamers in every community in this country. Thank you very much.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator Padilla. Senator Cornyn.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN CORNYN,
A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS**

Senator CORNYN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for allowing me to make a statement. Legal, orderly, and humane immigration policy has been the lifeblood of America, but that's not what we're talking about. In fact, the Biden administration has outsourced our immigration policy to criminal cartels for at least the last 3 years. The public record will demonstrate that I've been very sympathetic, as we all are, to the plight of these children who came here through no fault of their own and who've been placed in litigation limbo for the last 12 years. President Obama, who issued the executive memorandum, admitted multiple times that he did not have the authority to do this, but then he did it, resulting in the litigation that we've seen over the last 10 years. I think it's tragic that, as a result of this action by the Obama administration, these young people have been led to believe that this somehow provided a firm foundation for their integration into the great American heartland.

But unfortunately the conversation we're having here today needs to be placed in the proper context. Nine million illegal entries into the United States since the Biden administration took over; 108,000 dead Americans last year because of drugs that came across the southwestern border. The criminal organizations that move millions of people across know they're overwhelming our capacity to deal with it, and so then that's when they—then when the border patrol is off the front lines, that's when the drugs come across, including they'll—the fentanyl that killed 71,000 Americans last year alone.

And then there's the 400,000 unaccompanied minors that have been placed with sponsors in the United States, and the Biden ad-

ministration says, it's not our responsibility. We don't know what's happening to them. We don't know whether they're being trafficked for sex, being forced into labor, or what. I was in the Oval Office when President Obama said he was contemplating issuing an executive memorandum on the DREAM Act. We asked him—I was among those who asked him, please give us a chance to pass legislation. And we know that he declined to do that, and here we are today.

This is the Committee of Jurisdiction that deals with immigration policy, but we haven't had a single hearing on fixing the broken system. Maybe components of it, like looking through a soda straw while ignoring the fire that's occurring all around us. Well, Senator Graham did a good job of explaining the numbers of where we are today, but it's become increasingly difficult for the Biden administration to sweep this problem under the rug. They have the tools available to them, the same laws that were in effect during the Trump administration, to deal with much of this problem, but they simply refuse to do so.

And then there's the pull factors that Senator Graham alluded to. For example, last month the city of Denver, Colorado published a newcomers playbook, welcoming migrants into their community. As a part of their intake process, they suggest immediately offering migrants onward transportation to another destination. Just this week, the mayor of Chicago had to scrap a poorly conceived plan to relocate minors to a neighborhood in South Chicago ahead of the Democratic National Convention. And President Biden continues to poison the well to good-faith, bipartisan attempts to address this problem. It's impossible for us to pass legislation dealing with this larger problem, when President Biden simply refuses to enforce the law, creating a huge magnet to more and more immigration.

For example, authorities that were intended to be exercised on a case-by-case basis, the so-called parole authority, has been exploited by President Biden to stand up entirely new programs that Congress has not agreed to. For example, the Department of Homeland Security set up a program to grant parole and work permits to 30,000 people a month, from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. That's 360,000 people a year, simply waved into the country, given a work permit, and there you go. The President has also expanded eligibility under the already unlawful Central American Minors Program to certain adults. Last year, the administration extended Venezuela's temporary protected status designation to cover nearly a half a million Venezuelans who illegally immigrated to the United States. The Biden administration knows, just as the Obama administration did when it came to DACA, that these programs are built on quicksand. Anyone enrolled in these programs is likely—and has, in fact, experienced tremendous uncertainty, not as a result of the policies we have in place today but the policies they put in place before, as far back as 12 years ago.

Now, you've heard our colleagues say, well, we just need to take care of the Dreamers and DACA recipients. But the fact is, they don't seem to care about the rest of the problems, including the 108,000 dead Americans as a result of the drugs and 400,000 minor children placed with sponsors that they simply have lost track of. So, unfortunately, Democrats, through their unwillingness to ad-

dress these manifold problems and the President's continued abuse of authorities, have made it impossible and foolish for us to take up a stand-alone DACA bill at this time.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator Cornyn. I'd like to clarify two things. The Lankford bill was a bipartisan effort to deal with the border. Senator Lankford is a conservative Republican from Oklahoma whom I respect very much. When the bill was called on the floor of the Senate, four Republicans voted for the bipartisan bill. None of them serve on the Senate Judiciary Committee. So, to fault this Committee for not moving the issue forward when every Senator was given a chance to go on the record on a bipartisan bill which everybody agreed was a positive step—unfortunately, only four Republicans went forward with it.

And, second, when it comes to the pull factor, I'd have to just tell you, America is a pull factor. America is the incentive for people wanting to come to this country. We should respond with good laws that keep us safe, number one, but number two, have an orderly process for immigration. I think that goes without saying. But the notion that we're going to somehow discourage America from being a magnet for people—it has always been a magnet for people. We are a Nation of immigrants. Let's do it in an orderly way, and for goodness sakes, let's not hold those protected by DACA today responsible for every problem in the immigration system.

Senator CORNYN. Mr. Chairman, if I can respond just briefly, the problem is not passing new laws. The problem is enforcing laws that are already on the books. I have zero confidence that if we were to pass the bill that was negotiated between Senator Murphy and Senator Lankford and others that the Biden administration would suddenly have an epiphany and say, hey, we better enforce the law. That's not going to happen.

Chair DURBIN. Well, Senator—

Senator CORNYN. So, that's the main problem—is an administration that refuses to enforce the law. We can pass all the laws we want. If the administration refuses to enforce them, we're going to be in the same place we're in now.

Chair DURBIN. The Senator from Texas has never voted for a bipartisan immigration bill. He has an approach to this which is not going to end with solving the problems we're facing. I hope he'll join the effort. I was prepared to stand behind Senator Lankford, a Republican Senator, and the majority of Democrats were, as well, even though there were provisions in there which I didn't like at all. You have to be prepared to make concessions, to make progress.

Senator CORNYN. Mr. Chairman, you know that's a—

Chair DURBIN. Before we—

Senator CORNYN [continuing]. Low blow. I come from a border State. This is ground zero for my State and my people, not folks that live in Chicago, though you're experiencing some of the consequences of that. But suggesting that I have been unwilling to negotiate and engage in good-faith negotiations on immigration policy is a lie, and you know it, because I've been there at the table with you and Senator Graham and others for many, many years, and I resent the fact that you decided to impugn my integrity by sug-

gesting I had no interest in a solution. That is a false statement, and you know it.

Chair DURBIN. The Lankford roll call will speak for itself. Before we turn to our witnesses, let me lay out the mechanics for the rest of today's hearing. After I swear in the witnesses, they'll each have 5 minutes to testify. Then there'll be a round of questions. Each Senator will have 5 minutes to speak. Please remain within your allotted time.

Today, we welcome five witnesses. I'll introduce the majority witnesses, and Ranking Member Graham will introduce the minority witnesses. Our first witness is Officer Mitchell Soto-Rodriguez. She is a police officer from Blue Island, Illinois. As I shared on the Senate floor in December, Officer Soto-Rodriguez is a DACA recipient who's lived in the United States since she was 9 years old. She graduated magna cum laude from Governors State University in Illinois in December 2022. Next week, the Committee will mark National Police Week, when we honor our law enforcement officers, so it is fitting that you are here today. Officer Soto-Rodriguez, thank you for joining us.

Our second witness is Tom Wong, an associate professor of political science and the founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at University of California in San Diego. He has fielded a national survey to analyze the experience of DACA recipients in the past 9 years. And thank you for being here, Professor.

Finally, we welcome back to the Committee Maria Gabriela Pacheco, the president and chief executive officer of TheDream, a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to Dreamers since they are ineligible for Federal student aid. Ms. Pacheco is an immigration rights leader who first testified before Congress in April 2013, 11 years ago, at a hearing on comprehensive immigration reform. I first met Gaby more than 14 years ago, and in 2010 she led the Trail of Dreams, a 4-month walk from Miami to Washington, DC—some walk—to highlight the plight of Dreamers. Gaby put Dreamers on the National political agenda and inspired me to ask President Obama to establish DACA. She became a naturalized citizen last year. Congratulations. Welcome back, and thanks for your leadership.

Ranking Member Graham, would you like to introduce your witnesses?

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have Tammy Nobles. She is a realtor from Norfolk, Virginia. She volunteers part-time as the president of the Down Syndrome Association of Hampton Roads. She is the mother of Kayla Hamilton, and she'll tell us about that story. And she joins us today to share her story. And I know it's difficult, but thank you so much.

Chair DURBIN. At this point, I'd ask the witnesses to stand and be sworn, please. If you'd raise your—

Senator GRAHAM. I'm sorry. Wait. Jessica Vaughan—sorry about that, Jessica—is director of policy studies for the Center for Immigration Studies. She's been at the Center since 1992. She is an expert on immigration policy, including immigration enforcement, border security, visa programs, benefits, public safety. She received her master's from Georgetown and a bachelor's degree from Washington College in Maryland. Thank you, Ms. Vaughan.

Chair DURBIN. If the witnesses would please stand and raise their right hand.

Do you affirm that the testimony you will give before the Committee will be the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth so help you God?

[Witnesses are sworn in.]

Chair DURBIN. Let the record reflect all the witnesses have answered in the affirmative. Officer Soto-Rodriguez, you may proceed with your opening statement. Make sure you have the button engaged. I don't think your microphone's on yet. I don't think your microphone's on yet.

Senator GRAHAM. You might want to push it toward your—yes. Is the light on?

Chair DURBIN. Pull the microphone a little closer to you. There you go. Not working.

[Technical issue.]

Chair DURBIN. If you—

Senator GRAHAM. Put a quarter in it.

Chair DURBIN. If you could ask Ms. Vaughan to share her microphone—is it possible to move it?

Senator GRAHAM. It's broken.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. All right.

Chair DURBIN. There it is.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Thank you so much.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF MITCHELL SOTO-RODRIGUEZ,
POLICE OFFICER, BLUE ISLAND POLICE
DEPARTMENT, BLUE ISLAND, ILLINOIS**

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Good morning. Thank you, Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, for the opportunity to testify today. I am Officer Mitchell J. Soto-Rodriguez, and I am grateful for the opportunity to share my journey as a DACA recipient, now proudly as a police officer serving the city of Blue Island, Illinois. When I was 9 years old, my parents made a tough decision on my behalf to uproot our family from Mexico, seeking a better future for us in the United States. I remember the moment we joined my father in Blue Island, marking the beginning of our new life. However, that transition was challenging, from navigating language barriers to experiencing the uncertainty of undocumented status.

Each obstacle shaped my path. My journey was not easy. I have experienced incredible moments like buying our first American home and expanding our family. I have also lived through incredibly difficult times. I was denied my driver's license because I didn't have papers, and I had to watch my parents sleep in a car after my dad wasn't able to find a job. My sophomore year of high school, my mom, little sister, and I were struck by a car while driving. We were afraid because we were undocumented, but the police officer who came to the scene showed compassion. The moment inspired me to serve in law enforcement. In pursuing my dream, I encountered a lot of challenges along the way.

In 2012, when President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, my life changed again. A huge door opened to continue pursuing my goals. DACA was the

key for me to continue my education and get a job after high school. I worked two jobs and continued my education. I attended Moraine Valley Community College. I graduated with associate's degrees in criminal justice and liberal arts. Based on the degrees and the career I wanted, I got a scholarship and attended Lewis University.

Despite working hard and getting good grades, I couldn't pursue my dream because of my status. I wasn't eligible for financial aid, so I had to leave Lewis University to help my sister attend school. Even though I had a scholarship, I still needed to pay \$9,000 out of my pocket per semester. Having a work permit was a blessing. At the same time, my status was holding me back from getting into my dream job. For a long time, I could not apply to be a police officer because of my DACA status. I realized that I might not be able to work in law enforcement, but I did not give up.

In 2019, I registered at Governors State University to complete my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. While attending school, I was working full time. I was able to manage my time and do homework and attend classes. I got a job at a high school, the same high school I attended to. Through that job, I worked closely with the police department, and I met Chief Farr and Commander Sepessy of the Blue Island Police Department. In May 2022, I graduated magna cum laude. Chief Farr asked me why I had not applied to be a police officer, and I told him it was because I had DACA. He advocated for Blue Island to change its rules and hire DACA recipients as police officers.

Finally, in 2023, Mayor Fred Bilotto and the city council changed the rules. Once I heard the news, I submitted the application right away and got hired as a part-time police officer. On February 14, 2023, I got sworn in and I started training in the part-time academy. This year, I finally completed my training, passed the test, and got hired as a full-time police officer for Blue Island. Now, I know two other DACA recipients who are training to be police officers, and now that I am a police officer, I know how much we need them.

Having DACA allows us to become successful in life and to make a difference in the country that has seen us grow up. For many of us, the country that we come from is just in our memories. The only country we know is here, where we stay. This is our home, the country that many of us serve proudly. If DACA recipients had a pathway to citizenship, it would be in favor of the economy of the country, because we would still support the country without fear. If DACA one day is going to get removed, all of our lives will go back into limbo, and we will not be able to continue with our current jobs or education.

The economic and social benefits of fully integrating Dreamers into the communities will be a massive boost for our families, communities, and country, who all have come to see our contributions over the 12-plus years of DACA protections. All we want is to pursue our dreams without fear of deportation or discrimination. As a police officer, I understand the importance of safety and security; however, even in uniform, I'm reminded of the limitations imposed by DACA status. If DACA were to end, my career in law enforcement will end, and I love being a police officer. I would lose every-

thing, my job and probably even my home. I wouldn't be able to support my family financially.

Senators, I urge you to consider the human stories behind the policy debates. Behind each statistic is a Dreamer with hopes, dreams, and aspirations. We're not asking for handouts. We're asking for recognition of our humanity and our contribution to this Nation. Congress, I put my life on the line for this country every day. I am ready to become a citizen of this great Nation. Thank you for listening.

[The prepared statement of Officer Soto-Rodriguez appears as a submission for the record.]

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Officer. Ms. Vaughan.

**STATEMENT OF JESSICA M. VAUGHAN,
DIRECTOR OF POLICY STUDIES, CENTER
FOR IMMIGRATION STUDIES, WASHINGTON, DC**

Ms. VAUGHAN. Thank you. Last month, nearly 180,000 people crossed our border illegally. More are on the way, on planes, trains, boats, and on foot, and they keep coming because, under Biden administration policies, the vast majority are being released into the country with the opportunity to remain for years, possibly even with a work permit. Another 45,000 got-aways arrived after evading apprehension. Another 44,000 inadmissible aliens were allowed to enter in March under the administration's unlawful parole programs, including via the CBP One appointment system. Also in March, six illegal border crossers were apprehended who were hits on the terror watchlist. All told, nearly seven million illegal, inadmissible aliens have been allowed to enter since the start of this administration. This has created some serious, urgent problems around the country.

In Massachusetts, for example, lawmakers are struggling to find the money to cover the \$915 million price tag for the emergency shelter system, alone, for 1 year, because of the influx of illegal migrants. This doesn't include the cost of schooling, medical care, and other services they need. In Montana, leaders of Tribal communities have defied death threats from Mexican drug cartels to appear in the media and before Congress to plead for help with the devastating influx of cartel drug trafficking operations in Indian Country that they say is due to the open-border policies, and they are asking why the illegal migrants are getting more attention and funding than their communities of First Americans.

Throughout the country, we've seen a new wave of disturbing incidents of child labor trafficking and other abuse involving thousands of unaccompanied minors who were smuggled here and released to unvetted, nonparental sponsors, many to end up working on car part assembly lines, poultry processing plants, or in abusive domestic servitude or even sex trafficking. On top of the mass catch-and-release policies at the border, the Biden administration has dismantled interior immigration enforcement to the point where even many criminal illegal aliens are often protected from deportation and remain here, free to prey on new victims.

Arrests and removals of criminal aliens are less than half of what it was prior to 2021, and some of the worst-case scenarios resulting from these policies have already happened, which we'll hear

a little bit more about today. Just a few weeks ago, one of these released migrants was charged with aggravated rape of a disabled 15-year-old girl at a Comfort Inn in Rockland, Massachusetts that was being used as a shelter for newly arrived migrants. He reportedly came directly from Haiti in June 2023 under the unlawful CHNV parole program, supposedly with a sponsor in New Jersey.

Less than a week ago, a citizen of Guatemala was arrested in Lake Worth, Florida, accused of snatching an 11-year-old girl off the street and raping her in his van. He crossed the border illegally in January, was released, and went to Florida with an immigration court date scheduled in 2027. In at least four cases I know of, border patrol agents have released men who were hits on the terror watch list. These are just a few snapshots of the consequences of the current policies.

This is at the top of the minds of public safety officials, State lawmakers, and municipal leaders that I speak with all over the country. It's also the top issue for voters. According to the most recent Gallup poll for the third consecutive month, immigration is considered to be the most important problem facing the United States, and that's the longest sustained stretch for this to be the top problem issue in the last 24 years. The arguments for a DACA amnesty or any amnesty might be more compelling if we had not just gone through 3 years of an uncontrolled border and did not just have to absorb six or seven million new illegal migrants.

The Immigration and Nationality Act, in its current form, is sufficient to put an end to this crisis, if only it were enforced and fully applied. The Biden administration is choosing to wave in inadmissible aliens every day, instead of preventing illegal entry; choosing to process benefits for these migrants instead of for citizens and legal immigrant applications; choosing to flood the immigration courts with long-shot asylum cases; choosing to leave ICE detention beds empty, rather than allow ICE to do its job; choosing to abandon worksite enforcement. Reversing these choices would bring about an end to the crisis and restore America's faith in our legal immigration system. That also needs some reform, but we simply don't have the ability to have a discussion about that until this other crisis is solved.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Vaughan appears as a submission for the record.]

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Ms. Vaughan. Professor Wong.

**STATEMENT OF TOM K. WONG, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
OF POLITICAL SCIENCE/DIRECTOR U.S. IMMIGRATION
POLICY CENTER, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
SAN DIEGO, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA**

Professor WONG. Thank you, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham, for the opportunity to testify today about the positive impact that providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers can have on American society and the economy. My name is Tom Wong, and I'm an associate professor of political science and founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at UC San Diego. I'm an expert on immigration politics and policies and have published multiple books and dozens of articles and policy reports on these topics.

A pathway to citizenship for Dreamers will significantly improve the American economy. Undocumented young people already contribute to the economy by paying taxes. A pathway to citizenship would allow undocumented young people to participate more fully and more productively in the labor force. More specifically, a pathway to citizenship would increase employment among undocumented young people from an estimated 40 percent to over 90 percent. These employment gains would also be met with wage gains, which accrue to undocumented young people as they are able to adjust their immigration status. All together, these employment and wage gains suggest that a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers would add \$2.5 billion per year in additional State and local tax revenue.

This is a conservative estimate, as new research on DACA recipients, including my own, shows that the economic impact of DACA has outperformed most economic models. Another estimate shows that a pathway to citizenship for undocumented young people could lead to an estimated \$799 billion increase in gross domestic product over a decade. More generally, a recent Congressional Budget Office estimate projects that immigrant workers will add an additional seven trillion to the U.S. economy over the next decade and an extra one trillion in Federal tax revenue.

So, DACA shows us how providing permanent protections to undocumented young people can benefit American society and the economy more generally. DACA has been one of the most successful immigrant integration policies that the U.S. has ever seen. I have researched the impact of DACA since its creation. Work authorization has allowed DACA recipients to participate more fully and more productively in the labor force.

For example, approximately 59 percent of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed reported moving to a job with better pay because of DACA. Approximately 47 percent reported moving to a job with better working conditions. Approximately 48 percent reported moving to a job that, quote, “better fits their education and training.” Approximately 50 percent reported moving to a job that, quote, “better fits their long-term career goals.” Approximately 20 percent reported that they obtained professional licenses, and approximately 10 percent reported that DACA allowed them to start their own businesses.

Importantly, as the country grappled with the global pandemic, an estimated 343,000 DACA recipients worked in jobs that were deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security. Moreover, nearly a decade of surveying DACA recipients has shown that DACA has had a significant and positive effect on wages. Because of DACA, average hourly wages have more than doubled, from \$11.92 to \$31.52 and 52 cents per hour, an increase of 164 percent. Increased wages are beneficial for recipients, their families, and the U.S. economy. With higher earnings, DACA recipients pay more in taxes and are able to spend more.

In 2022, DACA recipients earned an estimated \$27.9 billion in wages and contributed nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare. Moreover, in 2021, DACA recipients paid an estimated \$6.2 billion in Federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in State and local taxes. But the legal attacks on DACA mean that the futures and

the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people are uncertain. Without DACA, approximately 58 percent of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed reported that they would be less likely to continue their education, and approximately 63 percent reported that they would be less likely to pursue new educational opportunities.

Among DACA recipients who are parents, approximately 71 percent reported that they think about, quote, “being separated from their children because of deportation at least once a day or more,” and approximately 68 percent reported thinking about, quote, “not being able to see their children grow up because of deportation at least once a day or more.” All together, nine out of every ten DACA recipients reported concerns about their or their families’ physical safety, ability to access health care or education, the risk of food insecurity, or the risk of homelessness if they no longer had DACA and were deported.

Dreamers need permanent protections so that their integration success stories continue. Without permanent protections, not only will their American dreams end, but American society and the economy would be worse off if we turned our backs on this cohort of young people who are American in every sense of the word except on paper. Thank you.

[The prepared statement of Professor Wong appears as a submission for the record.]

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Professor Wong. Ms. Nobles.

STATEMENT OF TAMMY NOBLES, NORFOLK, VIRGINIA

Ms. NOBLES. Thank you for having me here today. My name is Tammy Nobles, and I am the mother of Kayla Hamilton. July 24, 2002 was one of the best days of my life. I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and named her Kayla Marie. She loved to laugh and smile. She treasured her friends and family and never forgot anyone. She was kind, caring, thoughtful, funny, and human. She loved life and God. But, sadly, on July 27, 2022, I received the worst news that a parent doesn’t want to hear, that my newly 20-year-old daughter, Kayla Hamilton, was murdered in her own room and left on the floor like trash.

At the end of March 2022, Kayla’s murderer was apprehended at the—at the border, crossing illegally into the U.S. at the southwest border in Rio Grande City, Texas. He was a 16-year-old known gang member affiliated with MS-13 in El Salvador. He entered the country as an unaccompanied alien child and told Homeland Security that he was in fear of his life because of the gang activity in El Salvador. Department of Homeland Security did not check his body or make that one phone call to El Salvador to check his background. Department of Health and Human Services did not verify the sponsor before allowing him into the U.S.

As a UAC, the murderer was allowed to go live with this unverified sponsor who lived in Frederick, Maryland. There were behavioral issues with him living with his sponsor, so he was freely allowed to go live with his half brother, who lived in the same neighborhood as Kayla and her boyfriend. A short time later, behavioral issues started again, and the half brother did not want him living there. The half brother called the leasing office, who

were also the owners of the many mobile homes in the neighborhood—if she had any rooms for rent. Sadly, she allowed this underage MS-13 gang member to rent a room in the same mobile home as Kayla and her boyfriend, along with another family.

Kayla's murderer was living there less than 5 days before he viciously murdered my daughter. Kayla had autism, but she was determined to live independently and make her way in this world. And my baby paid the ultimate price. She'd just gotten off work at the night shift. She kissed her boyfriend goodbye that morning, and she went to sleep. The murderer broke into Kayla's room, scaring her. Kayla grabbed her phone and called her boyfriend, but it went to voicemail. The murderer grabbed her iPod charger and wrapped it tightly around her throat and face while strangling her to death. The voicemail of the murderer strangling Kayla was 2 minutes and 30 seconds long. The murderer then violently sexually assaulted Kayla and just left her on the floor. After he committed the crime, he went to lunch with his half brother like nothing happened.

Kayla's boyfriend came home and found her dead on the floor. The charger cord was so tightly wrapped around her neck and face he had to use his teeth to get it off. Local police didn't have enough evidence to arrest him, so they called ICE to ask if they could hold him until the DNA results came back, because of the flight risk. ICE refused. So, the Aberdeen Police Department had no choice but to call Child Protective Services, and they have asked Child Protective Services to put him in a secured location. It was later found out that Child Protective Services put him in an unsecured location in a children's home with other children, knowing of the violent crime that he committed.

How many youths were let in that were just like Kayla's murderer? With the failed and neglected vetting and background checks, we have no idea who we are allowing in. Not all are innocent children seeking the American dream. Some are criminals and are here to destroy American lives. For me, this is not a political issue. This is safety issues for everyone living in the United States. This could have been anyone's daughter. I don't want any other parent to live the nightmare that I am living.

I am her voice now, and I'm going to fight with everything I have to get her story told and to bring awareness of the issues at the border. If we had stricter border policies, my daughter would still be alive today. Nothing will bring back my daughter nor fix the pain of not having her here, but I want to prevent this from happening to someone else's child. This isn't about immigration. This is about protecting everyone here in the United States.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Nobles appears as a submission for the record.]

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Ms. Nobles.

Ms. NOBLES. Thank you.

Chair DURBIN. I'm sorry for the loss of your daughter. Ms. Pacheco.

**STATEMENT OF MARIA GABRIELA "GABY" PACHECO,
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, THEDREAM.US, MIAMI, FLORIDA**

Ms. PACHECO. Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and esteemed Members of this Committee, the last time I stood before

this Committee was over a decade ago. A decade. Ten years ago, I was undocumented and had just received DACA. Today, I stand before you as a proud naturalized United States citizen, representing not just my own journey but the hopes and aspiration of millions like me. Dreamers who, despite the challenges we face, continue to believe in the America's promise. As a Dreamer who came to this country at the age of eight, I never imagined I would've had the opportunity to stand here as a citizen of the United States.

It was through perseverance, determination, and marrying my college sweetheart that I was able to navigate the complex path to citizenship, a 10-year journey marked by uncertainty but also by hope and resilience. I will never forget the day of my citizenship ceremony, standing alongside 60 immigrants from 21 countries, reciting the oath of allegiance with tears in my eyes, knowing that I was finally recognized as a fellow American. It was a moment of profound gratitude and humility, a testament to the enduring spirit of justice and opportunity of this Nation, yet amidst this appreciation was my humble recognition of how lucky I was. For the vast majority of Dreamers in America, they don't have a similar opportunity.

As the president and CEO of TheDream.US, the Nation's largest college and career success scholarship program for Dreamers, I've had the privilege of witnessing the transformative power of education, helping over 10,000 of our scholars access higher education. More than 4,000 of our scholars are now college graduates, and 94 percent of those with DACA and TPS are working. Two-thirds are in business, health and medicine, and education. They are the embodiment of the American dream. The average age of arrival among TheDream.US scholars is just 4 years old. They did their entire schooling here and graduated from our schools, and yet their futures hang in the balance, their dreams deferred by political gridlock and bureaucratic inertia.

The over 800 Dreamers who benefited from DACA wasted no time in seizing the opportunity this program gave them. They went to college, joined the military, and in 2020 became essential workers in the front lines of our country's COVID-19 response. Unfortunately, for Dreamers with and without DACA, their future remains uncertain. Those with DACA—their dreams are overshadowed by the fear of the legal challenges to the program, and those without DACA feel anguished by the inability to even apply. This academic year, we welcome our largest ever cohort of new Dream.US scholars. Three-fourths of them lack DACA status.

This is not just a policy issue. This is a profound moral test of whether we hold true to the ideals we so proudly proclaim. It is about the kind of Nation we want to be. One that empowers the best and the brightest within its Nation or one that squanders potential in favor of inaction. A decade has passed since I last stood here before this Committee, and yet the urgency of this moment has only grown. Senator Durbin, Senator Graham, bless you both for your unwavering commitment to the bipartisan Dream solutions. Let us honor the legacy of those who came before us—Senator Orrin Hatch, Senator John McCain, Senator Richard Lugar,

Senator Harry Reid, and so many others—by finally passing bipartisan DREAM legislation.

As I once walked 1,500 miles from Miami to Washington, DC, to demonstrate not just my dedication but the love I have for this country, today I stand before you asking you to walk alongside us in a journey toward fairness and recognition. Let us not wait for history to judge our actions, but let us be the leaders who pave the way for a brighter future. I urge you with the utmost respect and urgency to pass legislation that aligns with our American ideals, for teachers, nurses, police officers, for all of them to fully contribute to the Nation we all dearly love and to which we belong, not just with our taxes and labor but as recognized, respected, and legal Americans.

[The prepared statement of Ms. Pacheco appears as a submission for the record.]

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Ms. Pacheco. I thank the members of the panel for holding to the 5-minute rule. I hope the Senators will, as well. We'll now go to questions, and I'll start. Ms. Soto-Rodriguez, you were brought to the United States from Mexico by your parents at the age of nine?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. That's correct.

Chair DURBIN. I'm not sure that—

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. That's correct.

Chair DURBIN. All right. Do you remember that decision by your family?

Ms. SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. No. I was told by my family that's the decision they made.

Chair DURBIN. And when you went to college at Moraine Valley, as well as—was it Governors State or Lewis?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I first attended Moraine Valley. Then I got a scholarship for Lewis University. Then I had to leave Lewis due to economical—and then I attended Governors State.

Chair DURBIN. And were you eligible for Pell grants or Federal assistance in your education?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. No.

Chair DURBIN. How did you pay for it?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I had to work two jobs. As soon as I left high school, I knew that I needed to help out to continue my education, so I paid out of my pocket.

Chair DURBIN. And when DACA was created, you applied right from the start?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. That's correct.

Chair DURBIN. Tell me what kind of background check you faced under DACA.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I had to go, do my fingerprints, just like any other background check that they do. I had to complete an application, pay the fees, and wait for my appointment for my fingerprints.

Chair DURBIN. And each year when you renew, or each 2 years when you renew your DACA, are you checked again?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Yes.

Chair DURBIN. And did you go through background checks to be on the police department of Blue Island?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. That's correct. Twice.

Chair DURBIN. Twice. And so, let me ask you this, if you can address it. Do we have any shortages of law enforcement personnel in this country, that you know of?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. That's correct.

Chair DURBIN. What have you seen?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Not many people want to work in law enforcement, but that's all I can tell you, yes, right now.

Chair DURBIN. All right. Well, I've been told by police departments across our State that they're struggling to get recruits, and I think that's the case. And so, if some of the witnesses who testify want to eliminate the DACA program, what's going to happen to you?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I would lose my job, the job that I have fought so much for. And also I would lose probably even my home, and I won't be able to support my family financially.

Chair DURBIN. Ms. Vaughan, I'd like to ask you a question. Your seatmate, there, has told a pretty compelling story about what she's done, the sacrifices she's made to be a law enforcement official. Do you really think America would be a better country if she were deported?

Ms. VAUGHAN. No, I don't.

Chair DURBIN. Neither do I. Mr. Wong, Professor Wong, when it comes to the economic impact of the DACA program, we know that there are people eligible under the original program to apply for DACA but have been unable to because of a court decision. Are you aware of that?

Professor WONG. Yes.

Chair DURBIN. Have you projected if all eligible DACA individuals were part of the economy, how that would change your numbers on the impact?

Professor WONG. Yes. So, currently we estimate that all Dreamers—so, DACA recipients as well as those that were excluded from DACA—contribute an estimated \$45 billion each year to the economy in their wages and a combined \$13 billion in taxes.

Chair DURBIN. Do they make contributions to Social Security and Medicare?

Professor WONG. Yes. A 2022 estimate suggests that at least DACA recipients contributed over \$2 billion to Social Security and Medicare.

Chair DURBIN. And that helps the program remain liquid and keep its obligations to American citizens—

Professor WONG. Yes, sir.

Chair DURBIN [continuing]. You believe? Yes, it's certainly obvious. Ms. Pacheco, I remember when I first met you. You'd just finished walking from Miami. That's hard to forget. You've been through this struggle for many years and been through it personally. Congratulations on being a new citizen of this country.

Ms. PACHECO. Thank you.

Chair DURBIN. What message would you give to those who believe that the failures and crisis at the border should be held against those who are eligible for DACA?

Ms. PACHECO. We cannot wait. We can do both things at once. I was there in 2018. I was devastated when I heard President Trump tell the Senators that we shouldn't do a border Dreamer

amendment. We have had this issue for 20-some years. We need to do something now.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you very much. Senator Graham.

Senator GRAHAM. Thank you, Ms. Pacheco. I appreciate you coming, and we'll keep pushing, here. Are you concerned that if we pass DACA tomorrow it would incentivize more illegal immigration?

Ms. PACHECO. I'm not. It did not happen in——

Senator GRAHAM. That's——

Ms. PACHECO [continuing]. 2020.

Senator GRAHAM. That's fair. Ms. Vaughan, are you?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Yes, I am, because we do know from experience that when Congress is talking about enacting an amnesty, when there's this general discussion about——

Senator GRAHAM. It goes around the world.

Ms. VAUGHAN. It goes around the world. I mean, look how many people know our policies.

Senator GRAHAM. I got you. I got you. How many children 4 years old have come to the country in the last 3 years, Mr. Wong, illegally, brought by their parents?

Professor WONG. There are approximately 600,000 undocumented young people under the age of 18, and a——

Senator GRAHAM. In the last 3 years?

Professor WONG [continuing]. Small percentage—no, under 18, and a small percentage of those——

Senator GRAHAM. No, I'm asking you how many people under 18 have been brought to the United States by their parents in the last 3 years.

Professor WONG. Based on ACS projections, we can guess approximately 60,000.

Senator GRAHAM. Sixty thousand?

Professor WONG. Yes.

Senator GRAHAM. Of the nine or ten million——

Professor WONG. No, 60,000.

Senator GRAHAM [continuing]. Are minors?

Professor WONG. So, based on ACS data—so, this is excluding those encounters.

Senator GRAHAM. So, how many unaccompanied minors have we had in this country in the last 3 years?

Professor WONG. I do not know.

Senator GRAHAM. Was it 400,000, John? What was it? Unaccompanied minors. Four hundred thousand. Ms. Nobles, the man accused of killing your daughter—was he an unaccompanied minor?

Ms. NOBLES. Yes. He was.

Senator GRAHAM. Would we all agree America would've been better off if he had not been allowed to come here?

Ms. NOBLES. Kayla would've——

Senator GRAHAM. I just assume——

Ms. NOBLES [continuing]. Been better off.

Senator GRAHAM [continuing]. Everybody says yes. So, they indicted this man today. He's innocent until proven guilty. This is Mr. Ibarra. He was paroled into the country, along with millions of other people, but he is paroled due to the detention capacity at the central processing center in El Paso. That's the man facing

murder charges of Ms. Laken Riley. He was just waved into the country. You went through a lot, Ms. Rodriguez. You have a lot to be proud of. We check who you are, and, you know, you've made a lot out of your life here. Nobody even gave this guy the time of day.

So, now, Gaby, I admire you very much, but I am completely convinced if we gave legalization to anybody, until we stop this stuff, we're just going to be overrun. And, you know, here's the dilemma. You have very bright, hardworking people that I want to help, that have been here for years, but now you've got tens of thousands of new three-, four-, 9-year-olds. Are they going to get DACA, too? Mr. Wong? Anybody that's been here for the last 3 years as a 4-year-old—they're seven now—should they be allowed to be considered DACA of the future?

Professor WONG. DACA had residency requirements to explicitly address that potential pull.

Senator GRAHAM. So, would you recommend we tell them they can't stay?

Professor WONG. So, that's what we have done, historically. So, with DACA——

Senator GRAHAM. Oh, so it's okay to——

Professor WONG [continuing]. We told recently——

Senator GRAHAM [continuing]. Tell these four-and 9-year-olds, you can't stay?

Professor WONG. Well, sir, I didn't make DACA, but DACA did not allow individuals who recently——

Senator GRAHAM. Yes. So——

Professor WONG [continuing]. Arrived to enroll in the program.

Senator GRAHAM [continuing]. I guess my point is, where does it stop? There'll be a group, very sharp 9-year-old child that's been here 3 years, and three will turn into five, and five will turn into ten, and we'll have this all over again. It's not that I don't want to help. I just don't want to do anything that's going to throw gasoline on a fire.

We've had almost over two million people paroled. I just want to let people know that if President Trump wins, I predict—I'm not going to speak for him—but unless you really truly have a unique benefit to the country or an unusual humanitarian situation, you're going to be kicked out. There're millions of people here who've just been waved into the country. They don't—Ms. Vaughan, has the parole statute been abused?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Yes, it has been.

Senator GRAHAM. Yes. So, you're talking about trying to help people that are deserving, and you just can't convince me that it's not going to lead to a bigger run on the border. And the biggest fear I have right now is that if we don't get control over the parole system, the unaccompanied minor system, the stories of Laken Riley and Ms. Nobles are just going to grow and grow and grow. And, Mr. Chairman, I have been sitting—we sit at a table, and I've been pushing back—and I'll end. I never dreamed it would get this bad. And to expect me or anybody else to engage in legalization in the middle of complete chaos is just a bridge too far.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator. Senator Hirono.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We've had many hearings relating to the need for comprehensive immigration reform, and I want to acknowledge the work that—Senators Graham and the Chairman of this Committee worked together in 2013, when we did deal with comprehensive immigration reform. So, we all understand how complex—complex our immigration system is and that it is broken. So, it is not just a matter of, we need to help the DACA recipients, the Dreamers, and all of the other issues that have been brought.

This morning, we acknowledged the need—I acknowledged the need for comprehensive immigration reform. At the same time, we have millions—literally over a million Dreamers. We had, at one time, 800,000 DACA participants or recipients. We have maybe about 500,000 of them now. And DACA has had impact in every State in the country, including Hawaii. We have 320 active DACA recipients in Hawaii, and frankly, at a time when just about every industry, every organization, including the police departments across our country, are in need of workers, it makes little sense to me that we are not going to enact legislation that is going to enable the DACA recipients to stay in our country and not get—and I would say most of them are working and contributing to our economy, clearly, as Professor Wong has pointed out. So, it makes little sense to me that we are going to subject these hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients and Dreamers to deportation.

Let me get back to Stephanie. Stephanie moved to the U.S. when she was three and grew up in Lahaina, Maui. She graduated from the University of Hawaii with an undergraduate degree, and she went on to get a law degree from the University of Hawaii's Richardson School of Law. She is now clerking for a Hawaii First Circuit judge, and she hopes to work in immigration law because she has seen the unfortunate reality of our Nation's broken immigration system. Stephanie's story is inspiring but not unique. Between 2013 and 2022, DACA recipients like Stephanie paid \$84 million in Federal taxes and \$41 million in State and local taxes. And if we give DACA or Dreamers a pathway to citizenship, in Hawaii alone, they could earn \$1.6 billion in wages while contributing hundreds of millions in taxes in the next 10 years.

Clearly, they have a huge economic impact in our country. They have paid their fair share, they have helped the economy grow, and they have enriched our communities. And it's, of course, past time that we, once again—as we did in 2013, when so many of us—I certainly worked on the comprehensive immigration reform bill in 2013, when so many of us worked on supporting DACA participants, so it's time we did that.

I do have a question for Ms. Pacheco. Thank you very much for your perseverance. Growing up as an immigrant—I too grew up in a situation where I didn't have health insurance—my greatest fear was my mother would get sick and therefore not go to work—be able to go to work. And no work is—you know, you don't have money to pay the rent or put food on the table. So, having health insurance, I realized, is a critical part of enabling all of us to have a stable life. So, the Biden administration has a rule or is putting forth a rule that would enable DACA recipients to be able to participate in obtaining health insurance. Can you talk a little bit

about how having health insurance really was a hugely critical thing for you?

Ms. PACHECO. Sure. Thank you, Senator. When I was able to get DACA, I got employed and was able to get health insurance. And during a routine checkup, it actually was detected that I had cancer. Unfortunately—fortunately, I was able to get treatment. Unfortunately, the treatment left me with a lot of complications today that—unfortunately I cannot get pregnant. I believe that if I would have had health care beforehand and we would've detected it earlier, I would be in a different situation today.

Senator HIRONO. Professor Wong, you have a lot of statistics about the economic impact of DACA and enabling the many Dreamers to participate in our economy. Would you agree that providing these people health care is a critical part of enabling them to stay in the workforce and to have stable family and lives?

Professor WONG. Yes, absolutely.

Senator HIRONO. So, of course, you would support the Biden administration's rule that would enable them to participate in health care?

Professor WONG. Yes. What we find is approximately one-quarter of DACA recipients currently do not have any kind of health insurance coverage, so coverage through the ACA would significantly benefit DACA recipients.

Senator HIRONO. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. Senator Hirono. Senator Cornyn.

Senator CORNYN. Ms. Vaughan, can you help me confirm my memory, which is that back when President Obama talked about the Dreamers, that he acknowledged repeatedly that he did not have the legal authority to do what he ultimately did? Is that your recollection, as well?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Yes, it is. And—yes.

Senator CORNYN. And so, now we find that Federal judges, both in Houston and the Fifth Circuit, have agreed with President Obama that he did not have the authority to provide this deferred action on childhood arrivals, correct?

Ms. VAUGHAN. That's right, and a Federal judge in Dallas, as well, even before those cases.

Senator CORNYN. And so here we are, 12 years after the fact, when President Obama said he didn't have the authority to do this, and now these Federal judges have said, yes, you're right, you didn't have that authority. And we are—these young people, who admittedly came here as children, through no fault of their own find themselves in legal limbo, correct?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Correct.

Senator CORNYN. So, just to correct the record, also—Senator Durbin said that I've never voted for any bill that provided for relief for Dreamers—I would point him to the Secure and Succeed Act, which I voted for in 2018. It was in the context of a much larger, comprehensive immigration reform bill. But we find the situation much different today, with the border on fire.

I want to follow-up a little more with you, Ms. Vaughan, about what the—the border patrol has always told me that the thing you need to keep in mind is that there are push factors and pull factors, or I should say push factors and pull factors. So, Senator Dur-

bin said the fact that we're America—that's a pull factor. And I would agree with him. Everybody wants to come to the United States. Who wouldn't? But the only way we've been able to deal with this on a legal, orderly, and humane system is through a legal immigration system, correct?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Correct. Yes.

Senator CORNYN. But the people who look to exploit our vulnerabilities when it comes to the border and our immigration system, like the criminal organizations that basically fly people from all around the world, for money, to show up at our border and claim asylum or parole—they see the policies of the current administration as an enormous opportunity to make a lot of money, and the migrants who take advantage of that are seeing an enormous pull factor or magnet to come to the United States, correct?

Ms. VAUGHAN. That's right. A lot of the migrants themselves refer to it as Biden's invitation.

Senator CORNYN. So, what's the effect of—if Congress were today—didn't do anything else but pass the Durbin bill relating to Dreamers, we didn't do anything else, would that be an additional pull factor?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Most definitely. People would be inspired to turn themselves over to criminal smuggling organizations to try to get here to benefit from that.

Senator CORNYN. And, Ms. Pacheco, congratulations on navigating the maze of our immigration laws and getting—becoming a naturalized citizen. That's what we should want for everybody, to—

Ms. PACHECO. Yes.

Senator CORNYN [continuing]. Come through legal means. But Senator Durbin's bill, his DREAM Act bill—it draws a line at people who came after or more recently than 4 years. In other words, it addresses people more than 4 years before enactment. So, what do we do with those who've come more recently?

Ms. PACHECO. Senator, we work on the DREAM Act and then work on a comprehensive immigration reform that brings our antiquated, broken immigration system into existence that we don't have today.

Senator CORNYN. Well, you know as well as I know that we've been—we have never failed to fail when it comes to comprehensive immigration reform. The whole time I've been here in the Senate, we've talked about it. It's like a unicorn. People claim it exists, but nobody's ever seen it. And that is a tragedy for everybody involved and for the rest of the country, too. But if we leave out some of the people who would otherwise qualify because of Senator Durbin's bill, that's okay with you? Or not?

Ms. PACHECO. I believe in this body, and I believe that this body will be fair and will be able to find the laws and the right policies to include as many people as possible.

Senator CORNYN. Thank you. My time's up.

Chair DURBIN. Senator Klobuchar.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Senator Durbin. And I wanted to clarify, I guess, with you, Professor Wong, one more thing. When we're talking about Dreamers and people with temporary status, TPS, and deferred forced departure, are we talking

about people seeking asylum at the southern border right now? The bills——

Professor WONG. No, we are not.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. And what, in fact, are we talking about?

Professor WONG. We are talking about people who are currently in the country who have grown up in this country who have known nothing but this country. The DREAM Act population is distinct from the flows that we're seeing at the southern border.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Thank you. I guess I would start with you, Ms. Pacheco. Thank you so much for your testimony. I just want to use one example from my State, Carlos. He was brought to the U.S. when he was 7 months old, and he discovered when he was 11 that he was undocumented. And in high school, he received numerous awards for academic excellence. He was captain of the varsity soccer team. He earned a scholarship. He attended Carleton College in Minnesota. He was granted DACA status, and today he works at a law firm. And stories like his are why I support a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. They know no other country. Can you talk about why this pathway is so critical?

Ms. PACHECO. Well, it's critical not just for the DACA recipients and those that are fully undocumented, for the Dreamers, but it's also critical for our country. Today, we have teachers, nurses, doctors, you name it, working and supporting in our economy. What would it be if we were to lose DACA in the middle of a school year, and an elementary school teacher has to leave her classroom? That would be a detriment not only to her but her children and the whole entire community that depends on her to educate those kids.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. And then I guess one example, since you brought up police officers—Officer, I want to thank you for your service. You've been here for 20 years. Next week is Police Week, when we honor you and others who serve in uniform. You testified that if DACA were to end, your career in law enforcement would end. I'm well aware, carrying the COPS bill, how much of a shortage we have right now in officers. Beyond your service, there's just a shortage in retaining and in getting officers and keeping them in the field. What has it been like to live with this uncertainty, professionally? And talk about why you chose law enforcement when you could choose many other careers.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Like I mentioned in my story, everything happened that day of the car accident, when my mom—when I was with my mom and my little sister, that another vehicle struck us where we were driving. The way the officer explained to us everything and he talked to us—he could just be like, I'm not going to help you, and just don't explain anything. And by the fact that he knew that my mother did not speak English and my English wasn't very well, he decided to start speaking Spanish to us. So, by seeing that, that's what encouraged me to be like, I want to be able to do the same. I want to be able to help my community that I grew up with and help the rest of the people here. So, that's why I chose to become a police officer.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Did you ever meet that officer again and tell him that he was your inspiration?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I have not seen him, but hopefully one day I'll get to see him again, and I can let him know.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Yes.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Professor Wong, in your testimony you talked about the economic impact of Dreamers. One estimate—Dreamers contribute an estimated \$45 billion to the U.S. economy through their wages and pay \$13 billion annually in taxes. You testified that, with a pathway to citizenship, Dreamers would add \$2.5 billion per year in additional State and local tax revenue. Explain that and what these economic consequences are.

Professor WONG. Yes. That \$2.5 billion number is actually a conservative estimate, so it assumes an 8.5 percent increase in wages post-legalization. So, when we're thinking about projecting economic benefits, we are thinking about what life is like economically for an undocumented person versus somebody who has legal status and can fully participate in the economy. So, that \$2.5 billion additional revenue per year is a conservative estimate, because that 8.5 percent is on the very low end of what we've seen DACA recipients produce. We actually see that DACA recipients have increased wages up to 164 percent, so that means that the projected increase in revenue could be significantly higher than existing economic projections.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Okay. Thank you. And, Ms. Nobles, I'm so sorry for your loss, and I'm a strong supporter of more security at the border and hoping we can merge some of these issues and get this done. Thank you.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator Klobuchar. I'd like to clarify one thing that is raised by Senator Cornyn about the effective date of those—arrival in this country and eligibility. I introduced the original DREAM Act, along with Senator Hatch. We've changed the date of eligibility in various versions of the bill, over the years. It never stated the same starting dates. So, it's subject to change if it is considered, and I hope it will be, by this Committee and by the Senate and House of Representatives.

But today we're also discussing DACA, and I want to make a point on the record. DACA applies only to immigrants who entered before their 16th birthdays and who lived in the country continuously since at least June 15, 2007. 2007. More than a decade ago. No one entering now or any entered in the last decade would be eligible for DACA, as we're talking about it. So, if we extend and legalize DACA, that's the standard that's being used at this point. Senator Kennedy, you're next.

Senator KENNEDY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thanks to all members of our panel for being here today. Ms. Nobles, I'm sorry. I don't have a daughter. I have a son. If what happened to your daughter happened to my son, I don't know if I could ever recover. I don't know why bad things happen to good people. If I make it to heaven, I'm going to ask. I'm sorry.

Ms. NOBLES. Thank you.

Senator KENNEDY. I don't know anybody in the U.S. Senate who has worked harder to implement and control—well, let me amend that—to implement an immigration policy that looks like somebody designed it on purpose than Senator John Cornyn. The problem

we've had in the last 3 years is that, except until recently, when it became a political issue, President Biden just didn't care. And sometimes when a person acts like he doesn't care, it's not an act. And that's why we have way more, Professor Wong, than 60,000 minors, many of whom are being—are being trafficked, sexually trafficked, today in our country. And I suspect you know that. Professor Wong, you're a professor from California. Is that right?

Professor WONG. Yes.

Senator KENNEDY. And you were invited here as an expert today by our Democratic colleagues?

Professor WONG. Yes.

Senator KENNEDY. Okay. You're on the board of directors of the California Immigrant Policy Center. Is that right?

Professor WONG. Yes, it is.

Senator KENNEDY. And I'm looking at your website. You and the Center believe—I want to quote, if that's okay. According to you and the Center, quote, “the immigration enforcement system is built on white supremacy, economic exploitation, and criminalization and must be dismantled,” end quote. Is that correct?

Professor WONG. I'm not aware of that statement.

Senator KENNEDY. Here it is, right from your website, and you're on the board of directors. Do you believe that our immigration system is built on white supremacy?

Professor WONG. No, sir.

Senator KENNEDY. Well, you said it, Professor. Now, did you lie here, or are you lying to us today?

Professor WONG. No, I did not write that statement. I'm on the board of directors of an organization called the California Immigrant Policy Center that advocates for legislation changes in the State of California, to improve the lives of immigrants. I'm not aware of that statement.

Senator KENNEDY. Well, you ought to go look at your website.

Professor WONG. But are you talking about my personal website?

Senator KENNEDY. I'm talking about the California Immigrant Policy Center—

Professor WONG. Yes. I'm not aware of that statement—

Senator KENNEDY [continuing]. On whose board you sit.

Professor WONG [continuing]. On the California Immigrant Policy Center's website.

Senator KENNEDY. You say that the immigration enforcement system in America today is, quote, “built on white supremacy.”

Professor WONG. That's not my statement.

Senator KENNEDY. Yes, it is. It's your—

Professor WONG. That's not my statement.

Senator KENNEDY. You're on the board. It's built on economic exploitation, and it's built on criminalization, and it must be dismantled. You also say, you and the Center, that you want to, quote, “strategically push ICE out of our communities across California,” end quote. Wow.

Professor WONG. So, an extensive body of research shows that interior immigration enforcement, to the extent that ICE partners with local police, has chilling effects across immigrant communities and their families.

Senator KENNEDY. Did you—did you listen to Ms. Nobles' testimony?

Professor WONG. Yes, I did, with great concern.

Senator KENNEDY. Yes. You think getting rid of ICE is going to help young women not be raped and murdered by MS-13 gang members? Is that your answer to—

Professor WONG. No, that's not—

Senator KENNEDY [continuing]. Bringing justice to Mrs. Nobles' daughter—

Professor WONG. No.

Senator KENNEDY [continuing]. Is to call her a white supremacist and say that she believes in economically exploiting people?

Professor WONG. No, that's not—you are attributing a statement to me that I did not make.

Senator KENNEDY. Yes, sir, you did. It's on your website.

Chair DURBIN. Time has expired, Senator. I think it's inappropriate to call people liars in this hearing. I hope that we'll be very careful. The witnesses are under oath, and to say that they are lying is to accuse them of something close to a crime, and I think that term should be carefully used.

Senator KENNEDY. Well, can I respond to that, Mr. Chairman?

Chair DURBIN. When you get your—I'm going to recognize Senator Blackburn, because I should've recognized her before you, and she has to go, and we have several others waiting. Senator Blackburn.

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have an honor flight of veterans from Tennessee that are waiting for us at the memorial. Thank you for the hearing today and to each of you for being here. Thank you for your time and your testimony. And, Ms. Nobles, we're so grateful that you would be here. I know this is painful, and I appreciate that you are here.

Mr. Chairman, I do wish that, since H.R. 2, the border security bill from the House, has been over here now right at a year, and we have not taken that bill up, I do wish that we would take that bill up so that we could stem the flow of illegal immigration coming into this country and then address some of these issues. I know that Senator Cornyn—and Senator Graham, some—talked a little bit about things that have been offered before. I know that President Trump—and recall that he had tried to get Speaker Pelosi, at that time, to work with him on a way to permanent residency for DACA enrollees, and that offer was rejected.

But securing that border's important, and I was concerned about President Biden's announcement that he was going to offer Obamacare to everybody that is in the DACA program. Now, at this point, we have 85,000 illegal migrant children that HHS and the Office of Refugee Resettlement cannot find. They do not know where they are. They don't know if they are dead or alive. They don't know what has happened to these children. I've constantly asked Secretary Becerra about this, Secretary Mayorkas. They cannot find these children. They're not putting energy into that. But they think the right thing to do is go say, oh, let's give free health care and then leave the border open, not secure the border, and ask the American taxpayer to pay for this, when unemployment is at a 2-year high, foreign-born workers are coming into the workforce,

taxpayers are struggling to make ends meet, but you want to talk about raising taxes and paying for a new program when you cannot manage what is in front of you.

And fixing this issue with the southern border should be what we are talking about and what we commit to doing. Nearly 10 million, in 3 years, that have illegally crossed the border. Ms. Vaughan, let me come to you. When we talk about this new rule that would give health care and we look at what is happening at the southern border, would the implementation of this new rule of free health care to all DACA enrollees—would that serve as a message that incentivizes illegal crossings into this country? How do you read that?

Ms. VAUGHAN. Well, I think, my understanding of the rule is that it allows people who qualify—people with DACA who qualify based on incomes to access the subsidies of Obamacare. And extending benefits like this, taxpayer-funded benefits to this, sends a signal that the United States is not serious about enforcing its immigration laws, that if people can just get here and—

Senator BLACKBURN. And get a benefit.

Ms. VAUGHAN [continuing]. Stay long enough, they will eventually be offered these—

Senator BLACKBURN. Benefits.

Ms. VAUGHAN [continuing]. Kind of benefits.

Senator BLACKBURN. Yes. Let me ask you about the parole program. You touched on that briefly. And I know that under President Obama and President Trump, they each paroled about 5,600 individuals per year into the country, but in 2022, President Biden paroled 800,000 people into the country. And then in 2023, he paroled 1.2 million people. I mean, look at the orders of magnitude of the actions that Biden has had and has selected this niche program of parole status. So, in my mind, this is abusing that parole program. I'd like for you to touch on that and how that affects the southern border.

Ms. VAUGHAN. Well, it makes a mockery of this discretionary authority that Congress gave the President with the intent that it would be used for specific purposes, for inadmissible aliens—people who would not otherwise be allowed to come in—for either significant public benefit or an urgent humanitarian need, and with the understanding that the numbers would be very small and it would not be used in a categorical way or, you know, casually, as it has been.

In some of the historical cases, it was used in situations where Congress was about to validate these grants of benefits, and that is certainly not the case with people coming here illegally. And we know from talking to the migrants themselves that they understand that if they can make it to the border, if they can make a down payment in their—on their smuggling fee, that it's very likely that they will be allowed to stay here indefinitely without any fear of enforcement within the country, whether they show up for their immigration proceedings or not, and potentially have access to the same kind of benefits that are given to long-term people who have been here legally.

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. I want to clarify something. The health benefits offered by the Biden administration is to DACA. In other words, to be eligible, you have to have lived continuously in the United States since June 2007, 17 years of residence. This notion of people perched at the border, jumping across because they just heard about the health care benefits bears no relation to the reality of the law that was enacted or the order that was issued by the President. Senator Coons.

Senator COONS. Thank you very much, Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham. And, Chair Durbin, if I could, just before I proceed—you are a good and decent man, and one of the strongest impressions I've had of you is when I first came here 14 years ago and was presiding and got to hear you deliver a speech about Dreamers on the floor. It's one of the first things that happened after I got elected. And your passion, your engagement, your determination to find a way forward here has inspired me and has challenged all of us, and your bipartisan work with Senator Graham, Senator Hatch, and others is a monument to persistence in the pursuit of justice. Thank you.

And I'd like to thank our witnesses today for appearing before us and for testifying. To Officer Soto-Rodriguez, thank you for your service and your willingness to share your story today. And to Ms. Nobles, I'm a parent, too, and I cannot imagine the depths of your suffering and agony, and I just wanted to convey my sympathies for your unspeakable loss.

And I think it's important today, when we talk about security and the border and law enforcement and Dreamers and DACA and the path forward, that we have in our minds examples that are positive as well as a clear-eyed look at the record. I wanted to lift up today a Delawarean, Maria Cervantes Garcia. I first met Maria at Delaware State University. I've recently interacted with her because she's a chemist. I trained as a chemist, I wasn't a very good one. She trained as a chemist, she's a very good one. She today works for a company, Chemours, as an analytical chemist.

And I think—yes, there's a wonderful photo behind me of Maria at graduation. With a scholarship from TheDream.US, Maria was able to channel her natural aptitude for math and science at Delaware State University to a degree in chemistry. And she loves volunteering at ASPIRA Academy. She's been a coach and STEM Ambassador for the Science Olympiad. Like every other Dreamer, she is so much more than her immigration status. And so, while we have this conversation about the DREAM Act that the Chairman has introduced every Congress since 2001, it's important to also remind people what we're talking about is folks who are neighbors and friends, who have real lives, like Maria. She is someone who likes going for a walk in Glasgow Park, has friends, is a member of our community, is contributing to our society in a very positive way.

There's long been bipartisan recognition that we should act to address the status situation of people like Maria. We do need to address security at our border, which is why I supported the bipartisan border security agreement. But we can't forget about people whose status hangs in the balance and who are participating in the DACA program. I also briefly, if I might, Mr. Chairman, wanted to

recognize the bipartisan introduction, in the House, of the Dignity Act by Representatives Salazar and Escobar that recognizes the need to address both of these issues. Physical security at the border and a path forward that provides for dignity.

Let me ask two questions, if I might. Officer Soto-Rodriguez, I'm interested in your perspectives as a DACA recipient and a member of law enforcement. What's your reaction to those who talk about the border and public safety as a reason not to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers such as yourself?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Do you mind rephrasing the question, more—shorter, like—

Senator COONS. I'll put it differently. I'd like to believe—you testified that you're a law enforcement officer because of an interaction you had with a kind officer.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Correct.

Senator COONS. Are you hopeful that your presence on the force will help inspire others to join law enforcement?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Correct.

Senator COONS. And, is it your view that the issues at the border of safety and security and the issues of whether or not people who were brought here as children, decades ago, are different issues?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Correct.

Senator COONS. Thank you. That was the simple point I wanted to make. Mr. Wong, if I might, in Delaware and in States across the country, we're dealing with big labor shortages. Can you just speak briefly to how fortifying DACA and passing the DREAM Act can help address significant labor shortages in the United States?

Professor WONG. Yes. The DREAM Act would bring hundreds of thousands of undocumented young people out of the shadows and into the labor force. Legal status will allow them to work more fully and more productively. Importantly, legal status will allow individuals to work in jobs that are commensurate with their education and training. And so, when we think about undocumented young people, many who don't have DACA are stuck in jobs that are far below what their ceiling is. And so, providing a path to citizenship and legal status would allow these undocumented young people to meet their full potential, thereby addressing labor needs across the workforce.

Senator COONS. Thank you. Professor, one of the reasons I lifted up Maria—again, I want to express my gratitude to TheDream.US for making it possible for her to graduate from Delaware State University. She's an example of what is possible, but we are currently missing out the skills and the opportunities of many who are here in this country who could and should be on a pathway to citizenship and fully contributing to our society. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. Thanks, Senator Coons. Senator Hawley and Tillis, I want you to know, I made a mistake, earlier, and didn't recognize Senator Blackburn in the proper order. So, I recognized Senator Kennedy and Blackburn. Now I'm going to recognize one more Democrat, and then we'll come back over. Is that okay? Thank you very much. Senator Padilla.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Professor Wong, you testified today that providing a pathway to citizenship for Dream-

ers would significantly improve the American economy, right? A lot of us spend a lot of time in trying to do morally the right thing when it comes to Dreamers and their families, but you're making an economic argument that doing so could potentially bring in billions of dollars in additional State and local tax revenue, create new jobs, and lead to a nearly \$800 billion increase in our GDP. From those figures alone, the economic argument in favor of legalization, I think, is not just clear but very compelling.

However, as you may know, former President Trump has said that, should he be elected to a second term, he would target millions of undocumented immigrants in a massive deportation campaign that, if successful, I can tell you would not just terrorize communities and lead to separation of families, ripping countless people from the only homes they've ever known—but do you have the expertise to talk about what an economic impact such a massive deportation campaign would have on regional economies and our Nation's economy? Can you talk a little bit about that?

Professor WONG. Yes. Thank you for the question. So, Dreamers currently contribute an estimated \$45 billion per year in gross domestic product. If we no longer had DACA and subjected Dreamers to that massive deportation force that you mentioned, then we would lose out on that economic benefit. But more to the point, DACA recipients and Dreamers more generally aren't just economic units. They are people who are embedded in our communities. And so, in our most recent survey of DACA recipients, what we did was conduct a survey experiment to figure out what life without DACA would be like for DACA recipients.

And so, as I mentioned earlier, approximately 58 percent would be less likely to pursue education without DACA. Approximately 63 percent would be less likely to pursue new educational opportunities. Importantly, 43 percent say they would be less likely to look for new jobs, and 42 percent would be less likely to report wage theft by their employers. And so, not only would we lose the economic benefits that Dreamers currently bring to the economy, but we would put Dreamers further into the shadows to the point where, even if they were being abused by their employers, they wouldn't report it.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you. And just to underscore the significance of your response, I want to remind us all of the distinction, again, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle keep muddling the issue. I'm not talking about people who may be on their way to the southern border to seek asylum or anything else. I'm talking—we're talking about long-term current residents of the United States and their work and their contributions to the success of communities in our country.

Now, as we've heard today, it's been more than two decades since the DREAM Act was first introduced. It was in 2001 that our Chairman, Chairman Durbin, and the late Senator Orrin Hatch introduced the DREAM Act the first time. It's been bipartisan since day one. The Chair's been fighting for it ever since, and during all this time, Dreamers have grown up. They've graduated high school. They've graduated from college, many from graduate school. They've started families. And those lucky enough to have the protections that come with DACA have established careers. They've

become doctors and nurses and teachers and police officers like Officer Soto-Rodriguez, who's here with us today.

But in all that time, Dreamers have also lived with the uncertainty and fear because of their status and Congress's failure, year after to year, to deliver for them. I'd like to ask Ms. Pacheco, who—you said in your testimony that you're here representing not only your own journey, which is a powerful and inspiring one in and of itself, but you also represent the hopes and aspirations of millions like you who have lived through the ups and downs of this fight for many, many years. Can you please tell us what these past few decades have been like for you and others who have been waiting and waiting and waiting far too long for protections and certainty?

Ms. PACHECO. Yes. Thank you, Senator. Well, it's been four administrations, Republicans and Democrats, in the last 20 years that we have seen this. And for me, the biggest devastation is seeing that today the average age of a DACA recipient is actually 29. They actually now have families. One in ten of our scholars have a U.S. citizen child. They say that about 300,000 U.S. citizen children have a parent that has DACA. And for me, the thing that really hurts the most is seeing all the potential that the young people, many of them sitting in this room today, have and the desire to be able to contribute even more than they already are contributing to this country, if they were to be allowed to be U.S. citizens.

Senator PADILLA. Thank you. I'd have additional questions, but my time is up. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Chair DURBIN. Senator Tillis.

Senator TILLIS. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you all for being here. I've been in the Senate since 2015. I've been on Judiciary Committee since the beginning of that. I've sat through a hearing at least every Congress, and it's much of the same. We haven't done a damned thing. And a lot of that is because it is thorny, and people only want to listen to one side of the argument and not both sides of the argument.

I have co-sponsored and supported efforts to have a pathway to citizenship for the DACA population. I also felt very strongly that we have to secure the border first. This administration—just a quick question. Anybody just raise your hands if you agree. Do you believe that—there're nine million, roughly nine million encounters at the border since President Biden's been in office. Some number less than that are people who've ultimately made their way to this country. Do they deserve a path to citizenship, the—let's call it seven million who've crossed the border illegally since Biden came into office? Does anybody here think they deserve a path to citizenship? Okay, we have one in the audience.

Do we believe that people that crossed the border illegally during the Trump administration deserve a path to citizenship? Okay. Do we believe that—I think even the DACA legislation—I think the number is 2012. Do we believe that anybody who's crossed the border since 2012 deserves a path to citizenship? Well, I have to—there's a difference here, because I'm assuming because y'all didn't raise your hand that we're back to the traditional definition of DACA or Dreamer population.

But guess what? If we don't have an answer for the unmanaged border, there is no earthly way that we're going to get a path to

citizenship for a population that I've supported. I've taken all the hits for supporting path to citizenship. I support it for the reasons some of my colleagues across the aisle have. But I do believe, I think, that the Chair commented on—there is a huge pull factor. We're the United States of America. We're one of the greatest countries that's ever existed. Thanks for actually being willing to risk your life and risk the lives of your children for coming to this country.

On the one hand, it's a great compliment. On the other hand, for somebody like me who's trying to get a path to citizenship and secure the border, stop it, because every single person who crosses that border illegally puts me further away from getting a path to citizenship to the very people that—those of you who are on the panel who support it—want to have it. Stop it. Now, we don't even have an administration—do you know why the James Lankford bill imploded? Lot of good policy in it. Zero trust in the Biden administration for securing the border.

Zero trust. And there's a good reason why. When you've got Democrat mayors saying, we cannot handle the load that's coming on us, because we're moving people off the border into New York and Chicago—when they have to experience the pain that Texas and some of the border States experience, guess what? They've been doing it for years. So, we've created a problem that isn't going to get fixed until people who support a path to citizenship can finish the sentence by saying, and secure the border and stop the illegal crossings.

And the people who say that we don't need foreign workers, that we don't need more people—I, for one, think we probably need about a half million more people a year, to solve our demographic problem, to avoid what's happened in Japan and western Nations. But it's the people who say, there's nothing to see here at the border; it's not a crisis—it's on you, because until you recognize it is a problem, it is a crisis, you have to come here in an orderly fashion, you have to respect our laws—don't let your first encounter with the United States of America be avoiding and ignoring our laws about legal immigration. Get frustrated. Advocate for more people coming across. But understand that's a problem, folks.

Help me help you. If you want the Dreamers to have certainty and have a path to citizenship, if you want the DACA population—as I do—to want certainty and have a path to citizenship, then stop trying to have it both ways, because that is partisan, it's ideologically driven, and it will result in making these poor people that I am trying to get a path to citizenship further away from ever getting it. So, stop talking past each other. Stop only liking one side of the equation, and stop pretending you like bipartisanship if, in fact, you won't support both sides of the equation. That is strong border policy, respect our laws, come here on an orderly basis, and then count me in for trying to get about a half million more into this country legally and doing something right for the DACA and Dreamer population. Thank you.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator Tillis. Senator Ossoff.

Senator OSSOFF. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for convening this hearing. Thank you to our panel. Just want to remind everybody in the room and everyone tuned in that we're talk-

ing about folks who were brought here as children and have been part of our society for 20 years, in many cases—children who were brought to the United States through no fault of their own and who are actively contributing and law abiding and, in many cases, law enforcement officers themselves, neighbors and community members. And in Georgia, we host and are proud to be the home of more than 17,000 active DACA recipients, folks who were brought here as children through no fault of their own and have participated in this program established with bipartisan support.

Something that's surprised me about the way this hearing has gone so far, Mr. Chairman, is, this has for so long been a common-sense, bipartisan question of basic fairness. And I hope that we can return to that spirit as we approach this issue, because it is urgent, in my view, that we pass bipartisan legislation that establishes a path to citizenship for these Americans who were brought here as children and who otherwise follow the law.

So, I want to ask you, please, Ms. Soto-Rodriguez. In Georgia, in recent months, many DACA recipients have seen substantially increased delays in the processing time for renewals, and my office has received calls from DACA recipients as well as their employers. Work permits depend upon the renewal of DACA authorization. So, from your perspective, what are the most profound impacts on the daily lives of DACA recipients when they're unable to timely renew their status?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I can tell you from my experience, because I just went through it just this past renewal. I did my renewal with the time, the date I chose to do it. I was about to lose my job because my work permit was about to expire within a day. When the expiration came in, my driver's license was already expired, so I had no driving license, and I had to talk to my chief from the police department to let him know what was the issue. So, it affected me. All these delays—it's affected me and also affecting all the DACAs, as well.

Senator OSSOFF. And how old were you when you were brought to the United States?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Nine years old.

Senator OSSOFF. Nine years old. And you're now a patrol officer?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Correct.

Senator OSSOFF. Which department?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Blue Island Police Department.

Senator OSSOFF. And so, the Blue Island Police Department, at a time when law enforcement organizations across the country are having a tough time hiring and retaining officers and deputies, stood potentially to lose a member of the force if your DACA renewal was not processed on time?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. I mean, they were following just the rules, but they were able to help me, too, because they were—they knew that I was—I was doing the right thing—

Senator OSSOFF. Sure. It's—

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. [continuing]. By renewing my permit. It was just not my fault that my permit wasn't coming on time.

Senator OSSOFF. Ms. Soto-Rodriguez, what would be your—you know, there's been some theatrics at this hearing, and welcome to the U.S. Senate, but—

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Thanks.

Senator OSSOFF [continuing]. As you've heard all of the partisan speeches today, all the usual political talking points that people associate with Congress and see on TV, as someone who has lived the journey you have and who has achieved amazing things, and you're defending your community, you're enforcing the law with the Blue Island Police Department—what would be your message to Senators up here who have been talking about this, the importance of establishing some stability, some permanency about a path to citizenship for folks who were brought here as children, have been here for 20 years, have participated in the DACA program? What's your message to these politicians today?

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. Just like I mentioned in my story at the beginning, most of us come here because of our parents, and many of us are doing great things for the country, and especially because we don't see this country just as a country. Like, for me, this is my home. This is who I give my life for. So, I wouldn't pick any other country. I know I'm Mexican. I know I wasn't born here. But this is my home. This is the only place I know, since I was brought here.

Senator OSSOFF. Thank you, Ms. Soto-Rodriguez. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Officer SOTO-RODRIGUEZ. You're welcome.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator. Senator Hawley.

Senator HAWLEY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Thanks to all of the witnesses for being here. Ms. Pacheco, if I could just start with you. Your organization, TheDream.US—you provide support for undocumented young people for college and career success. Is that broadly right? Am I getting it right?

Ms. PACHECO. That's correct.

Senator HAWLEY. And among the things you do is you provide scholarships to these undocumented students. Have I got that correct?

Ms. PACHECO. That's right.

Senator HAWLEY. And so—college scholarships, just to be clear?

Ms. PACHECO. Correct.

Senator HAWLEY. Okay. Got you. Can you tell me—maybe you know the answer to this, maybe you don't. Any of the students—do you know if any of the students to whom your organization has provided a college scholarship are currently part of the encampments on any of these college campuses, like the picture you see behind me? I'm sure we've all seen these videos.

Ms. PACHECO. No, Senator.

Senator HAWLEY. Nobody to whom you provide scholarships are part of the encampments?

Ms. PACHECO. I do not know.

Senator HAWLEY. Oh, you don't know. What if—do you know if any of the students to whom you provided scholarships have threatened, physically threatened Jewish students on campus?

Ms. PACHECO. I do not know.

Senator HAWLEY. Here's why I'm asking. NBC News just reported—and I'm just going to quote now from the article—quote, “a Columbia”—this is Columbia University—“a Columbia undergraduate who provided only her initials because she is an undocu-

mented immigrant and fears deportation said last week she spent hours a day in the encampment”—this would be the illegal encampment that’s in violation of the law as well as student policy—as well as campus policy—“spent hours a day in the encampment, I’m quoting now, “before university officials threatened to suspend those students.” The article goes on, “She joined this”—this student—“joined a supplies platoon. That’s a subgroup formed by pro-Palestinian campus organizers,” end quote.

Let me just review some of the things that these students—these in the encampments, that is—are saying. And, of course, we often don’t know who these students are. They’re concealing their identities. This is—I’m going to read to you now, and I just warn folks, this is not pleasant stuff, but these are the facts, and we have to tell the truth. This is just from last night at George Washington University. That’s here in this town.

They projected—the students in the encampment there projected onto various buildings images of the United States flag being burned, with the graphics, “Gaza lights the spark that will set the empire ablaze.” They projected the following, “Long live the student intifada. Down with the settler State.” That would be the State of Israel, I suppose. “Glory to the martyrs of Palestine.” It’s a jihadist slogan. “Stained with the blood of 44,000 Palestinians.” That’s last night at GW.

Also at GW, they’re now calling for beheading—the student encampment—beheading—beheading of individuals who support the State of Israel, including holding a people’s tribunal where they’re putting on “trial,” quote, unquote, various members of their own board of trustees and calling for a guillotine. Here’s Columbia University students on April 20, 2024. This is all public record. I’m reading this now, this is on—I guess it’s X. Columbia University students yelling at Jewish students, and I quote, “Never forget October 7th. It will not happen—I’m sorry—it will happen not one more time, not five more times, not 10, not 100, not 1,000, but 10,000 times. The 7th of October is going to be every day for you. The 7th of October”—this is to Jewish students—“is going to be every day for you,” end quote.

I guess my question is, Ms. Pacheco, and for anybody else on the panel, too. Shouldn’t we be deporting these students, if we have undocumented students who are here unlawfully in the country who are violating the law? Let’s just be clear, here, now. This is a violation of the law. And if they’re also deliberately inciting persecution of a person on account of their race, which surely calling for the murder of Jews does that—shouldn’t we be deporting them? Does anybody think we shouldn’t be? Shouldn’t we be deporting these students who are here unlawfully? Ms. Pacheco?

Ms. PACHECO. Senator, we expect a lot from our scholars, and the scholars and the students that I know love this country, respect this country, and want to—enrich not only the campuses but also this country.

Senator HAWLEY. That’s fantastic, and I hope and bet that none of the people that you sponsor are part of this. And I certainly hope that’s the case. But I just wondered, is there anybody on the panel who thinks that we should not deport students who are here unlawfully who are engaging in this activity, who are calling for the

death of Jewish students, who are violating the laws of the United States? I mean, shouldn't we be deporting these people? Does anybody want to defend it and say, no, we shouldn't, they should absolutely be here? Yes, I think it's indefensible. Let the record reflect just total silence from the panel.

You know, I also think we ought to cancel the student visas, and I've called for this, for those who are here from other countries with a visa. I think if they're part of this, we ought to be canceling their visas. We ought to send a clear message. Actually, Ms. Pacheco, I think it was you, in your opening statement, put it really beautifully about how part of what we're talking here today represents the character of the country. I think that's very appropriate.

And we need to send a message about this activity, not just about the trespassing and the destruction of buildings. That's bad. That's unlawful. But the threats of violence and in some cases the outright acts of violence against Jewish students—we should send a moral message that if you do that, and you are here unlawfully, you should be deported. If you are here on a student visa, you ought to have your visa canceled. This is the United States of America, and we are not going to stand for it. And I would just hope we could speak with one moral voice on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. Senator Whitehouse.

Senator WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Chairman. I'd like to return to the topic of the hearing and just tell a Rhode Island story, if I may, about a woman named Mariela Lucaj, who came to the U.S. from Albania when she was 4 years old. Four years old. I don't know if anybody has a lot of memories from before they were 4 years old, but pretty much all of Mariela's memories are from growing up in Rhode Island.

Her parents opened a small business. Mariela earned high honors in high school. She attended Rhode Island Community College and the University of Rhode Island, where she studied to become a nurse. Not a police officer, but a nurse. Pretty good, right? She then earned her master's in business administration from Northeastern University. When she was in college, Mariela was student government president, and she served as the student representative on the Rhode Island Board of Education for 2 years. She also served as a board member on our Commission on Higher Education & Employability.

She spent 5 years working as a registered nurse at Rhode Island Hospital in the neurology inpatient unit. At the onset of the COVID pandemic, she became a crisis relief nurse, working where she was most needed, in critical areas all around the country. And as many of you will remember, in the early days of the COVID epidemic, it was not known how dangerous that pandemic would be. It was not known the extent of the risk that practitioners, police officers, EMTs, nurses, and doctors were putting themselves at by going about their jobs and their duties. They did, and she did. She now works as a quality performance analyst at Athena Health, and Rhode Island Community College is proud enough of her that they have asked her to serve on the board of trustees of the college, and she is now on the Rhode Island Community College board.

Those are the kind of people we're talking about here. And I just want to make sure we're focusing on that. This Committee has been the place where some very significant bipartisan immigration reforms began. Chairman Durbin was instrumental, along with then-Chairman Leahy and then Ranking Member Graham, in working on a very robust immigration reform that got 70-plus votes on the Senate floor. I want to say 78, but it got a big bipartisan vote on the Senate floor. It was sent over to the Republican-controlled House, where nobody would give it a hearing, nobody would give it a vote, nobody would allow it in Committee, nobody would allow it on the floor. It was just squelched, even though there was such a significant bipartisan vote for it in the Senate. So, at the hands of the Republican speaker, all that good Senate work went to waste.

Recently, we've seen months of work take place on immigration reform. We stopped supporting our ally in Ukraine while we tried to hash through that. After all that work, after being presented with the most comprehensive immigration bill in 40 years, a bipartisan bill with the lead negotiator on the Republican side, the deeply conservative James Lankford—a bill that would have added resources to the border, added agents, added judges, added detention space. That would've upped our fentanyl detection capability dramatically, that would've tightened up standards in various programs, particularly the asylum program. That had the support of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and The Wall Street Journal editorial page, who don't exactly love Democrat initiatives—after all of that, again, one Republican took it down.

In this case it wasn't the speaker refusing to take it up. It was the soon-to-be-nominee of the Republican party, the leader of the Republican party, who said, don't do this. Don't do this. I want the issue. I want a mess. I want to run on this. And, obediently, our colleagues took it down, wouldn't vote for it, pulled it apart. And that was the end of that.

We're still ready to go. And I hope that, after those two unpleasant experiences, this Committee is not so disappointed that we can't go forward. I do know that Chairman Durbin has many, many years of extremely sincere and diligent pursuit of this. Senator Graham has been involved in bipartisan immigration efforts for a very long time. It may take a moment for things to cool down enough to reboot, but this Committee will be a good place for that, and I salute the Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator. And your summary of the current status of legislation could not be more accurate. Senator Booker.

Senator BOOKER. Mr. Chairman, I want to pick off just where Senator Whitehouse left off. I came to the Senate, as you know, in 2013, right after a bipartisan group of Senators courageously met in the middle and wrote an extraordinary bill that would've addressed many of the issues and concerns opportunistically being politicized right now. And that bill failed because House Republicans blocked it.

And so, from my time entering the Senate to when I watched with disbelief—I didn't think this place could shock me anymore—but to see someone, who I consider such an honorable person, being

willing—and Senator Lankford—to join in good-faith negotiations, to work for months and months, to have our caucus of Democrats move further than many of our caucus wanted us to move and meet in the middle on a bill that would provide billions of dollars to secure our border, would invest in significant technology that would help us to stop fentanyl from coming through, that would put billions of dollars in better processes to adjudicate people so that the nightmares that the Nobles family has endured would stop, that would create new laws and new abilities that were applauded by the very people who, every day, stand on our border, the officers' union, and to have that bipartisan bill—objected to by people, of course, on both sides of the political spectrum but that had enough votes in this body to pass—and then to have President Trump demonize this bipartisan bill that his own Senate party members were saying, we would not get a better deal under a Trump presidency—it astonished me.

Immigration should not be a problem. It should be an opportunity. We should secure our southern border. Democrats have voted time and time again to put more resources into doing just that, but the political opportunism, the playing into the tribalism, the manufactured outrage is so hurting this Nation, wounding us not just in our own safety and security but in our own economic opportunity. We are losing billions of dollars to our economy because we have such broken immigration laws. There are people that are graduating from our finest institutions with degrees in things that half of Congress can't spell, and we're kicking them out of our country.

When I meet with agricultural leaders, they say, time and time again, that we should be ashamed of our laws. And when I hear testimony from people who contribute billions of dollars to our country's economy, who are our first responders, who teach our children—Dreamers—and we put their lives—every single day they live with fear and anxiety. I can't imagine what it's like to have that kind of cortisol pumping in your brain every single day, afraid that one small thing that could happen could have you deported from the country, the only country you've ever known. And so, God bless this panel.

But as Ms. Pacheco said, this is not her first testimony. I mean, we should be embarrassed in this place that we've had for the entire career of my Senate, from a bipartisan bill to a bipartisan bill, all the time in the middle, we've gone through this exercise of rehashing the same thing, of having people come before Congress, telling their painful, emotional, hurtful stories, and to what end? To have it destroyed by opportunism. And this isn't a both-sides thing. The bill before I came in here was stopped by House Republicans, and the bill that just got done—by Lankford, who's had his career on the line, a right-wing conservative Senator has had his career on the line because he was bold enough to say, we can meet in the middle on this issue.

So, I'm—my entire Senate career—has been a source of deep frustration on an issue that we should seize and seize an opportunity and not this continued crisis that politicians are taking advantage of every single day. Mr. Chairman, I have no questions for

this incredible group of leaders, many of whom I know personally and have talked to for years. Thank you.

Chair DURBIN. Thanks, Senator Booker. Senator Welch.

Senator WELCH. I want to associate myself with the remarks of Senator Booker, and I appreciate your advocacy over the years. I feel the same way. You know, we all have a story, but I was inspired by a young man named Juan Conde who came to Vermont several years ago to go to medical school. And he came from Mexico with his mom when he was 5 years old. And how does somebody go from being a 5-year-old, crossing the border, living in Texas for some time, and then getting up to Vermont? His mom died of cancer, and that inspired him to go to medical school and then to get a research degree. I mean, it's astonishing how wonderful this person was. And he was my guest at a State of the Union.

Senator Booker, you know, I was in the House for a while, and we passed in the House the Dreamer Act, and there was such excitement, because it just gave an opportunity to kids, now adults, to be fully contributing members. And here we have a police officer. We've had so many people in the military. So many people have contributed so much. And, I think, there's universal agreement that if you're a child who has no control over where Mom or Dad takes you, that's different than showing up at the border when you're an adult, for whatever reason that may be. That's just different. It's a child who then found it in himself or herself to become an extraordinary contributor to our economy and bring a lot of love to a lot of people in this country.

So, Senator Durbin, I just want to thank you for your tireless advocacy on behalf of the Dreamers. I know you'll never stop. You're a stubborn guy. So, we've got, like, a kind of a persistent champion here, and it's really tremendous. We do have to deal with the border. We have to have a secure border. You know, Senator Tillis is right about that. And I was so pleased that we had the opportunity to vote.

You know, Senator Lankford did take a long step, to reach a practical way of securing the border, and Senator Murphy and Senator Sinema did, as well. And I was ready to vote for that. I was ready to vote for comprehensive immigration reform when the Senate passed a bill. Senator Durbin, you were part of that, and it came to the House. But then-Speaker Boehner wouldn't even allow us to vote on it. Very, very frustrating. So, I can only imagine what it's like for all of you and for all of you and people in your situation. So, I just want to express my respect for what you're doing.

You know, the other issue is, when there's a criminal act, you know, this is heartbreaking, what we hear about. There's got to be tough prosecution on that. You know, there's got to be law and order. There has to be. But to conflate that with the overall issue of, in my case, this young 5-year-old, you know, Juan Conde being brought here, becoming a doctor, doing medical research—they're two different things that get conflated, and I think it does damage to us making progress. So, since all the questions have been asked, I appreciate the opportunity to make a statement in solidarity. And, again, I want to end by thanking Senator Durbin for his tireless efforts here. It's just in his heart and in his soul, and one day

we're going to get the relief that justice requires. Thank you. I yield back.

Senator BOOKER. Mr. Chairman, I just want to say for the record I find it offensive that the good Senator did not use all of his time to grandstand in any way and yielded time back to the Senator from California. That's so un-Senatorial of him. And he's not a House Member anymore. He needs to reclaim all of his time.

[Laughter.]

Chair DURBIN. He has, in fact, violated Senate tradition.

[Laughter.]

Chair DURBIN. But we'll give you extra time next round. The most patient Member of the Committee, Senator Butler.

Senator BUTLER. Thank you, Chair Durbin. I am also going to be un-Senatorial and violate all the rules, as well. All of the questions—meaningful questions, in my opinion—have been asked, and you all have answered with such passion and commitment and patriotism. And so, I just appreciate all of you for your participation and presence here. Ms. Nobles, I do have a daughter. She's 9 years old. I think everybody in the Senate, whether they are a Democrat or Republican, knows that I wake up every single day and come here in the name of my own daughter. I could not imagine your family's pain, and I just want to offer my sincerest apologies to you and to your family.

And know that, there are those—while there are those who would suggest that because we support this community finding a pathway to citizenship, that we cannot stand with you in the prosecution of criminals who took something away from your family, I want to assure you that that is not the case. And all of us—all of us—believe that the person who took your daughter's life and caused your family's pain should be prosecuted and held to the fullest extent of the law.

Chair Durbin, your decades-long commitment to this community and to this issue is immeasurable and cannot be repeated in any way. And I know that those of you who have taken this journey with Chair Durbin for the last two decades know that you have a never-ending, relentless champion. And just know that there are others who stand with him. I represent the State with the largest number of DACA recipients, California, 185,000 DACA recipients. And I sat here patiently, Chair Durbin, because they deserve voice. And as their representative, temporary or permanent, I wanted to be here to give them voice.

And so, Ms. Pacheco, I do have one question for you. California is not only home to the largest number of DACA recipients, it's also home to the largest number of Hispanic-serving institutions, 172 of them. Your organization's work is about scholarship and the pursuit of higher education. And so, these Hispanic-serving institutions—many of them have created what's come to be known as Dream Centers, supporting undocumented students who are on campus as students in pursuit of higher education and greater contribution to our State and to our country.

Can you talk about the importance of these Dream Centers in higher education? How do they actually enhance the academic performance and experience of undocumented students, Dreamers, who are seeking to find not only connection and belonging but com-

munity, often in institutions that didn't necessary have them in mind when these institutions were created?

Ms. PACHECO. Yes. Thank you, Senator. That's a really important point. And at TheDream.US, while not all our institutions have Centers, they do have a person called a scholar advisor that is the linchpin. It's the person that is there to support our students. In reality, as Senator Booker talked about, our students go through a lot of anxiety, stress. Their lives, any day—they listen on the news. They hear about what's happening on the legal challenges. I'm sure that many of them are watching this today. And they having a home, having somebody that they can talk to, having somebody that can provide them with the support that they need not only helps them academically but also helps them with their stress and managing their mental health.

Senator BUTLER. Thank you, Ms. Pacheco. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to all of the students and activists, advocates, patriots, who have chosen to utilize your time so passionately on this issue. We couldn't get this far without you, and we won't get all the way there without you, either. So, thank you.

Chair DURBIN. Thank you, Senator. Senator Blumenthal.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thanks, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank Senator Durbin for his passionate and constant advocacy. I've been very proud to work with him over the years. And I know, Ms. Pacheco, you testified in 2013, when we came very close to a bill, and we have, since then, continued to work on it. So, you should know—all of you should know that we're not going away. We're not abandoning this effort, whatever the outcome of this hearing. And I think you can tell from the tenor of some of my colleagues that we're not unanimous in favor of the Dreamers, but we are not giving up.

And we're not giving up, in part, because of you individually and your stories, which are so inspiring to Americans. And I find in Connecticut that the success stories like yours are really powerful and compelling. One of those stories is of a Connecticut Dreamer, Myagmarsuren Otgonbayar, who arrived in the United States from Mongolia when she was 11 years old. She grew up in Fairfield, Connecticut. And she met all the criteria for the DACA program, but she is still one of the 100,000 applicants stuck in legal limbo during Texas' lawsuit against the program.

And despite not being eligible for financial aid because of her immigration status, she graduated from the University of Connecticut in 2019 with a degree in biology. She was working to fund her education, and she was taking care of her younger brother at the same time that she was studying, and her parents were working long hours to put food on the table and pay their rent. She graduated. She hoped to attend medical school. She wanted to gain experience by working in a biology lab, but the jobs that she found required work authorization or permanent residency. Without DACA or the DREAM Act, she had to put that plan on hold.

She's continued to contribute to her community. In fact, she's now operation manager for Connecticut Students for a DREAM, which has done great work in our State. But this one example, I think, speaks volumes, as do your stories about how important this measure is, not just for the individuals but for our communities

and the contributions that people make. So, I would like to ask you, Ms. Pacheco, about the feelings that others may have, being in this kind of legal limbo. How it affects their aspirations, their hopes, and their desire to achieve the American Dream, which is simply to have an opportunity to learn and earn and move forward.

Ms. PACHECO. Yes. Senator, in 2010, myself and three friends decided to do a walk from Miami to Washington, DC. And every single day, we were putting ourselves at threat of deportation by sharing our story and being open. But every single day, in the morning, I would put on my shoes, tie my laces, and go out there, because I love this country. That is what every single one of our scholars and Dreamers do. And every single day is uncertain for them, but they believe that one day America is going to recognize them, that they belong here in this country.

For our scholars, during the pandemic one of our students was a nurse. He says, every day I would put my gown on, and even though I was putting my own life at risk, I was there to ensure that my patients were well taken care of. And let me assure you, Senator, that not one of those patients ever asked our student, a nurse, if he had DACA, an immigration status, or what. But he still did it, despite working 80 hours a week, because this is his country. This is his home.

Senator BLUMENTHAL. Thank you very much. Thanks, Mr. Chairman.

Chair DURBIN. Thanks, Senator Blumenthal. I thank all the Members who were part of this, and I certainly thank our panel. Ms. Nobles, I want to make a point very clear, because I think about what you've gone through, and no one should ever experience what you've experienced. And so, that you understand, I accept Senator Tillis's challenge that, on a bipartisan basis, we come together and do something, not just about DACA and Dreamers but about the border, as well.

And I think we start with some basic premises. Number one premise is we have to have an orderly process at the border. People can't overwhelm the system and come in without any type of verification. Second, we've got to make sure we let the world know that we cannot take everyone. I understand, as the son of an immigrant, the draw of the United States. And we should have immigration. I support immigration, but it has to be in an orderly way, and the numbers have to be manageable.

To your particular experience, we have got to make certain that no one is ever knowingly allowed to come into the United States who would be a danger to anyone else. That means being careful, as careful as we can be. We owe it to everyone living in the United States. We owe it to you and your experience, to meet that goal. I think we can reach that common ground—I hope we can—if political circumstances improve.

Dr. Wong, Professor Wong, we have this new thing in the Committee. If you ever belonged to an organization, you are automatically responsible for everything they've ever said and done, whether you knew about it or didn't, whether you participated in it, however you voted on it. I have to confess I'm worried. For probably 6 years, I was a card-carrying, uniformed member of the Boy Scouts of America.

[Laughter.]

Chair DURBIN. I don't know what they did in the 1950's, but someone on this panel may hold me responsible for it. So, it's a new line of questioning, and most people understand it's an unfair line of questioning. Let me just also say I want to acknowledge all my staff for the work they do, but I want to particularly acknowledge Joe Zogby. Raise your hand, Joe. He's been with me from the start. When we introduced this bill, Joe sat down at the table and came up with the bipartisan effort—to name it the DREAM Act. So, he's been there from the start. Anything we've achieved, I owe to Joe and my fine staff people working with him. I just asked Joe a question, and I knew that he would know the answer. What was the date of the Saturday when we had a vote on the DREAM Act, years ago, and the galleries were filled? Do you remember this, Gaby?

Ms. PACHECO. Yes.

Chair DURBIN. The galleries were filled with young people wearing caps and gowns. They were Dreamers who wanted to go to school or wanted to finish school or wanted to brag about the fact that they'd finished school. And they filled the galleries of the Senate on a Saturday morning. And we fell short, just a few votes, but we fell short of passing the DREAM Act. I went to a church nearby, a—

Ms. PACHECO. Yes.

Chair DURBIN [continuing]. Couple blocks away, and it was one of the saddest meetings I've ever had. These people—young people were so determined to finally break through and to get recognition for what they had done with their lives and what they wanted to do with their lives, and we fell short in the Senate. We've passed it in other times, but never—I think never as much of a build-up as it was that year. I said to them then, and I say to you now, I'm not giving up on you. Don't give up on us. We're going to fight this battle and continue to fight it until we prevail. We have so many people stand behind you, believe in you. Many of them are here today.

I want to move to enter into the record, a number of statements from organizations, including The Immigration Hub, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, and the Evangelical Immigration Table. Without objection, these statements will be included.

So, thank you for coming. To everyone at the panel, thank you for being part of this hearing. This meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:42 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

[Additional material submitted for the record follows]

A P P E N D I X

Submitted by Chair Durbin:

Advocates for Human Rights	86
American Bar Association (ABA)	84
American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC)	123
American Immigration Lawyers Association	110
Arizona State University (ASU)	119
Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities (AJCU)	88
California State University (CSU)	129
Carroll, Donna M., Testimony	107
Center American Resource Center (CARECEN)	90
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)	97
Children at Risk	92
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)	94
Coalition for the American Dream	177
DACA, homeowners article	102
Dominican University	104
Egan, Marc, Director of Government Relations, National Education Association	131
Evangelical Immigration Table	108
Farmingdale State College	74
Franciscan Action Network Statement	112
Hebbard, Dr. Matthew S., Testimony	76
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)	181
Hostos Community College	114
Immigrants Rising	136
Immigration Hub	115
Justice and Advocacy Ministries of Disciples Home Missions	77
National Education Association (NEA)	118
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)	132
Nava, Gabriel, Statement	113
North Park University, Chicago	106
Powderly, Timothy, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Americas, Apple	127
Presidents' Alliance, On Higher Education and Immigration	78
TheDream.US	141
UNIDOS US	171
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Statement	176
Wingate University	135

Submitted by Senator Hirono:

National Education Association	183
--------------------------------------	-----

Submitted by Senator Padilla:

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)	184
National Education Association (NEA)	187
Powderly, Timothy, Senior Director, Government Affairs, Americas, Apple	188

Testimony of Tammy Nobles
"Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth"
May 8th, 2024

Good morning and thank you for having me here today. My name is Tammy Nobles. I am the mother of Kayla Hamilton.

July 24th, 2002, was one of the best days of my life. I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl and named her Kayla Marie. She loved to laugh and smile. She treasured her friends and family and never forgot anyone. She was kind, caring, thoughtful, funny and human. She loved life and God. She showed the world that being yourself was ok and you didn't have to follow everyone else. But sadly, on July 27th, 2022, I received the worst news that a parent doesn't want to hear that my newly 20-year-old daughter Kayla Hamilton was murdered in her own room and left on the floor like trash.

At first, we knew very few details of the murder until an arrest was made. The details we learned broke us. At the end of March of 2022 Kayla's murderer was apprehended by Border Patrol crossing illegally into the U.S. at the southwest border in Rio Grande City, Texas, he was a 16-year-old known gang member affiliated with MS-13 in El Salvador. The MS-13 motto is "kill, rape and control". He entered the country as an unaccompanied alien child and told Homeland Security that he was in fear of his life because of the gang activity in El Salvador. Department of Homeland Security failed to visually check the assailant's body and did not make that one phone to El Salvador to check his background. Department of Health and Human Services operational neglect included its employees violating clearly articulated protocol requiring a minor to be placed with a "verified" relative before entering the US. Department of Health and Human Services employees neglected and recklessly failed to verify a legitimate family member of the assailant or sponsor before allowing him to enter U.S. soil. The operational neglect committed by Department of Homeland carried over into Department of Health and Human Services whose operational neglect further sealed my daughter's fate.

As a UAC the murderer was allowed to go with his aunt who lived in Frederick, Maryland. There were behavioral issues with him living with his sponsor so he was freely allowed to go live with his half-brother who lived in the same neighborhood as Kayla and her boyfriend. A short time later behavioral issues started and the half-brother did not want him living there. The half-brother called the leasing office who were also the owners of the many mobile homes in the neighborhood if she had any rooms for rent. Sadly, she allowed this underage MS-13 gang member to rent a room in the same mobile home as Kayla and her boyfriend along with another young family.

Kayla's murderer was living there less than 5 days before he viciously murdered my daughter. Kayla held 2 jobs. She was working at a cleaning company and at Weis grocery store. Kayla had autism but she was determined to live independently and make her way in this world. And my baby paid the ultimate price. She had just gotten home from working the night shift and she said goodbye to her boyfriend that morning when he left for work. She then went to sleep. The murderer went into Kayla's room startling her, grabbed her iPod charger and wrapped it

around her throat and face while strangling her to death. Kayla grabbed her phone and called her boyfriend but went it to voicemail. The voicemail of the murderer strangling Kayla was 2 minutes and 30 seconds long. The murderer then violently sexually assaulted Kayla. Kayla's boyfriend came home from work and found her dead on the floor. The charger cord was so tight around her neck and face that her boyfriend had to use his teeth to get it off. The murderer robbed her of her phone and \$6.00. He then went to lunch with his half-brother like nothing happened. Local police didn't have enough evidence to arrest the murderer they called ICE - Immigration Custom and Enforcement and asked the agency if they can hold him until the DNA results came back because of the flight risk the murderer needed to be held in a secured location and ICE refused. So the Aberdeen Police department had no choice but to call Child Protective Services to take custody of him. The Aberdeen Police Department made a director order to have the agency to have him placed in a secured location due to the violent and horrendous crime. Child Protective Services took him into custody and later police found out that Child Protective Services placed him in an unsecured children's home with other children – even knowing that he was the main suspect in a premediated murder case. Again, there were behavioral issues at the children's home so he was removed and then placed with the foster family until he was arrested. When he was arrested for Kayla's murder he laughed and smirked.

Let's take a moment and think about how Kayla felt that day. How scared she must have been that day knowing that she was dying. And if she was going to see her mommy again, her baby sister, her brother or her cat Oreo. Kayla fought for her life that day with all that she had and in the end, she lost to an individual that wasn't even supposed to be allowed in the country.

How many youths were let in that were just like Kayla's murderer? With the failed and neglected vetting and background checks we have no idea who we are allowing in. Not all are innocent children and seeking the American dream. Some are criminals and are here to destroy American lives.

For me, this not a political issue this a safety issue for everyone living in the United States. This could have been anyone's daughter. I don't want any other parent to live the nightmare that I am living. I am her voice now and I am going to fight with everything I have to get her story told and bring awareness of the issues at the border.

If we had stricter border policies my daughter would still be alive today. Nothing will bring my daughter back nor fix the pain of not having her here, but I want to prevent this from happening to someone else's child. This isn't about immigration this is about protecting everyone in the United States.



Written Statement of
Maria Gabriela “Gaby” Pacheco
Education Leader
President and CEO of TheDream.US

Before the U.S. State Judiciary Committee at the hearing entitled
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

Presented May 8, 2024

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and esteemed members of the Committee,

The last time I stood before this committee was over a decade ago. A decade!

Ten years ago, I was just a young woman with a voice and a dream; I was undocumented and had just received DACA. Today, I stand before you as a proud naturalized United States citizen, representing not just my own journey but the hopes and aspirations of millions like me—dreamers who, despite the challenges we face, continue to believe in America's promise.

As a Dreamer who came to this country at the age of eight, I never imagined that I would have the opportunity to stand here as a citizen of the United States. It was through perseverance, determination, and marrying my college sweetheart that I was able to navigate the complex path to citizenship—a 30-year journey marked by uncertainty but also by hope and resilience.

I will never forget the day of my citizenship ceremony, standing alongside 60 immigrants from 21 countries, reciting the Oath of Allegiance with tears in my eyes, knowing that I was finally recognized as a fellow American. It was a moment of profound gratitude and humility, a testament to the enduring spirit of justice and opportunity of this nation. Yet amidst this appreciation was my humble recognition of how lucky I was; for the vast majority of the Dreamers in America, they don't have a similar opportunity.

As the President and CEO of TheDream.US, the nation's largest college and career success scholarship program for Dreamers, I have had the privilege of witnessing the transformative power of education, helping over 10,000 of our Scholars access higher education over the past decade.

Our Scholars are diverse, coming from over 120 countries around the world, including 1 in 5 of our Scholars who were born in the Caribbean, Asia, Africa, or Europe. Our Scholars also hail from all across the U.S., having graduated from high schools in 45 states and Washington D.C.

More than 4,000 of our Scholars are now college graduates, and 94% of those with DACA and TPS are working. Two thirds are in business, health and medicine, and education. This includes Areli, a teacher and published children's book author who once reflected that, "Every child deserves high quality education that will nurture their academic and personal growth." Dreamers love this country, their home, so much that despite the hefty fees and the fear of what will happen when the DACA program ends, they apply every two years, have their background checked, and keep contributing to the richness of this country without the certainty of permanence.

Areli and the rest of our Scholars are the embodiment of the American Dream. The average age of arrival among TheDream.US Scholars is just four years old, they did their entire

schooling here and graduated from our schools. With a college degree and work authorization – TheDream.US Scholars and alumni are breaking cycles of poverty - 50% are out-earning their parents combined within a year of graduating from college; 1 in 5 are primary providers for their families, with multiple family members depending on their income for basic necessities like rent, food, and utilities; and 1 in 10 are parents, now raising U.S. citizen children who will live in constant anxiety of losing their parents to deportation.

And yet despite their achievements, their talents, and their deeply embedded roots and lives in the U.S., the futures of TheDream.US Scholars and all Dreamers hang in the balance, their dreams deferred by political gridlock and bureaucratic inertia.

The over 800,000 Dreamers who benefited from DACA wasted no time in seizing the opportunity this program gave them. They went to college, joined the military, and in 2020, became essential workers on the frontlines of our country's COVID-19 response. 340,000 DACA recipients were deemed “essential workers” during the pandemic, helping keep America running throughout the crisis.

This includes a TheDream.US alum in Florida who reflected on his work during COVID saying, “Every time I go to work, I bravely gown up and do everything in my power to fight this pandemic and save lives.” He worked more than 80 hours a week as a nurse during the height of the pandemic. Never once did a patient he attended ask or care about his immigration status.

Unfortunately, for Dreamers with and without DACA, their future remains uncertain, their dreams overshadowed by the fear of what will happen when the DACA program ends and the continued inability for younger Dreamers to even apply into the DACA program in the first place. For example, this academic year, we welcomed our largest ever cohort of new TheDream.US Scholars. Three-fourths of them lack DACA status, largely due to ongoing legal challenges that have barred new applicants into the program.

This is not just a policy issue—it's a profound moral test of whether we hold true to the ideals we so proudly proclaim. It is about the kind of nation we want to be: one that empowers the best and brightest within its nation or one that squanders potential in favor of inaction.

A decade has passed since I last stood before this committee, and yet the urgency of this moment has only grown. Senators Durbin and Graham, bless you both for your unwavering commitment to the bipartisan Dream solutions. Let us honor the legacy of those who came before us—Senator Orrin Hatch, Senator John McCain, Senator Richard Lugar, and Senator Harry Reid, and so many others—by finally passing a bi-partisan Dreamer legislation.

Senators, as a former Dreamer and today a fellow American, Dreamers do not seek pity; they seek fairness. They do not look for handouts; they look for the opportunity to give back and fully contribute to the country they have long called home.

As I once walked 1,500 miles from Miami to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate my dedication and love for this country, today, I stand before you, asking you to walk alongside us in a journey towards fairness and recognition. Let us not wait for history to judge our actions but let us be the leaders who pave the way for a brighter future.

I urge you, with the utmost respect and urgency, to pass legislation that aligns with our American ideals. For the teachers, nurses, engineers, psychologists, police officers, for all the thousands of capable, committed young people in our nation, allow for all of them to fully contribute to the nation we all dearly love and to which they belong, not just with their taxes and labor, but as recognized, respected, and legal Americans.

Thank you!

If you would like to learn more details about TheDream.US and evidence of how expanding opportunities for Dreamers is good for their families and the nation as a whole, please find the below details about TheDream.US, as well as several other studies and analyses that offer reminders that the success and potential of TheDream.US Scholars and alumni are only one part of the larger story of the positive impact of DACA and the talents and potential of Dreamers if given a chance to more fully participate in our nation.

- TheDream.US program snapshot ([here](#))
- TheDream.US graduation video ([here](#))
- TheDream.US 2022 Alumni Survey Report in partnership with Golden Door Scholars ([here](#))
- Presidents' Alliance report: Undocumented Students in Higher Education ([here](#))
- Presidents' Alliance report: Immigrant-Origin Students in U.S. Higher Education ([here](#))
- Presidents' Alliance resource: Breakdown of Dreamer Populations ([here](#))
- Niskanen Center Blog: More DACA recipients are homeowners than ever before ([here](#))

Testimony of Mitchell Soto Rodriguez
Before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”
May 8, 2024

Good morning. Thank you Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham for the opportunity to testify today. I am Officer Mitchell J. Soto Rodriguez, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to share my journey as a DACA recipient and now, proudly, as a police officer serving the city of Blue Island.

In the summer of 2005, my parents made a courageous decision on my behalf to uproot our family from Mexico, seeking a better and safer future for us here in the United States. I vividly recall the moment we reunited in Blue Island, IL, marking the beginning of our new life. I was in the fifth grade. However, the transition was not without its challenges. From navigating language barriers to experiencing the uncertainty of undocumented status, each obstacle shaped my path and came to define my entire life.

My family journey was not easy. I have experienced incredible moments of joy and celebration, like buying our first American home and expanding our family. I have also lived through incredibly difficult times. I was denied a driver's license due to lack of documentation and I had to watch my parents sleep out of a car after my dad was unable to find a job quickly due to our immigration status.

One pivotal moment occurred in my sophomore year of high school when I was in a car accident. The police officer who came to the scene showed compassion and assisted my mom even when she did not speak English. Due to my mother not having a driver's license due to her undocumented status, I had my driver's permit and the officer encouraged me to not be scared and drive the car back home the way he explained the situation and the process to me and my mother. That moment planted the seed of my aspiration to serve in law enforcement. However, as I pursued this dream, I encountered nothing but barriers and limitations.

In 2012 when President Obama announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals known as DACA, my life changed again. A huge door opened to continue pursuing my goals. DACA was the key for me to continue my education and get a job after High School.

I got my first job as a cleaning attendant at a laundromat in Blue Island, IL, and continued my education. I attended Moraine Valley Community College from 2013 to 2016. I graduated from Moraine Valley with two associate's degrees, in Criminal Justice and Liberal Arts. Based on the degree and the career I wanted I got a scholarship to attend Lewis University.

Despite excelling academically and professionally, my lack of citizenship continued to be a constant limitation to my ability to succeed, provide for my family, and contribute to my community. I had to leave Lewis University when my sister graduated from high school to help her attend school. Even though I had a scholarship I still needed to pay about 9k out of my pocket.

Knowing that DACA was providing me with a work permit to work legally in the country was a blessing but at the same time, it was holding me back from getting into the field I was studying for. For a long time, I could not apply to be a police officer because of my DACA status. I realized that a career in law enforcement was going to take time to achieve, and there could be a possibility of never achieving it and it just remains a dream.

But I did not give up. In 2019, I registered at Governors State University to complete my bachelor's degree in criminal justice. While attending school I was working full-time. I was able to manage my time to do homework and attend classes. I got a job as a school security guard for Eisenhower High School, the same High school I graduated from. Through that job I worked closely with the police department and I met Chief Farr and Commander Sepessy of the Blue Island Police Department.

In May 2022, I graduated from Governors State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice with honors Magna Cum Laude.

Chief Farr advocated for Blue Island to change its rules on hiring DACA recipients as police officers, and finally in 2023 the Blue Island Government changed their rules. Once I heard the news, I submitted my application right away and got hired as a Part-time Police Officer. On February 14, 2023, I got sworn in and on March 11, 2023, I started training in the Part-Time academy. This year, I finally completed my training, passed the test, and got hired as a full-time Police Officer for the Blue Island Police Department. Now, I know two other DACA recipients who are training to be police officers.

Having DACA allows us to become successful in life and to make a difference in the country that has seen us grow up. For many of us, the countries we come from are just in our memories. The only country we know is here where we stay. This is our home, the country that many of us provide to, we serve proudly. If DACA recipients had pathways to citizenship, it would be in favor of the economy of the country because we would still support the country without fearing if DACA one day is going to get removed and all our lives go back into limbo and not be able to continue with our current jobs or continue our education.

Providing Dreamers with pathways to citizenship isn't just a matter of fairness; it's an investment in the future of our nation. It's a moral imperative. It's the protection of the American dream. By embracing solutions to provide Dreamers permanent solutions that are only possible through legislation, Congress can finally do its part to harness the talents and potential of millions of individuals like myself who call this country home. The economic and social benefits of fully integrating Dreamers into our communities, would be a massive boost for our families, communities and country who all have come to see our contributions over the last 12+ years of DACA protections. All we want is to pursue our dreams without fear of deportation or discrimination.

As a police officer, I understand the importance of safety and security. However, even in uniform, I am reminded of the limitations imposed by my DACA status. If DACA were to end, my career in law enforcement would end and my life would go back to when I came to this country, I would lose everything, my job and probably even my home, and I wouldn't be able to support my family financially.

Senators, I urge you to consider the human stories behind the policy debates. Behind each statistic is a Dreamer with hopes, dreams, and aspirations. We are not asking for handouts; we are asking for recognition of our humanity and our contributions to this nation.

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
 “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

May 8, 2024

Statement of Jessica M. Vaughan

Center for Immigration Studies

Thank you, Senator Graham and Senator Durbin, for the opportunity to participate in this hearing. The border crisis resulting from the deliberate dismantling of effective immigration controls by the Biden administration is still festering, and should be one of the most urgent action items on the agenda of Congress. Last month, nearly 180,000 people were encountered after crossing the border illegally, according to Customs and Border Protection (CBP), of whom reportedly about 85 percent would be released into the country. Another 45,000 “gotaways” likely evaded apprehension after crossing illegally. Another 44,000 inadmissible aliens were allowed to enter in March under the administration’s unlawful parole programs, including via the CBP-1 appointment system. Also in March, six of the illegal border crossers who were apprehended were hits on the terror watch list.

Meanwhile, in Massachusetts, lawmakers are trying to cobble together a plan to pay for the expected \$915 million price tag for the emergency shelter system needed to house the influx of thousands of illegal migrants who have been flocking to the state after release at the border, on top of its native homeless population (<https://www.axios.com/local/boston/2024/04/22/massachusetts-migrants-shelter-costs>) .

Across the country in Montana, leaders of tribal communities have defied death threats from Mexican drug cartels to appear in the media and before Congress to plead for help in addressing the devastating influx of cartel drug and human trafficking operations in Indian Country that has been facilitated by the Biden open border policies (<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/apr/11/death-threat-mexican-cartel-forced-witness-to-canc/>) .

Throughout the country, law enforcement agencies and journalists are uncovering a wave of disturbing incidents of child labor trafficking and other abuse involving thousands of unaccompanied minors smuggled into this country and released to largely un-vetted non-parental sponsors in Georgia, Ohio, Louisiana, Alabama, South Carolina, Michigan, Florida, and numerous other locations (<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/02/25/us/unaccompanied-migrant-child-workers-exploitation.html>) .

In conjunction with the mass catch and release policies at the border, the Biden administration has dismantled interior immigration enforcement to the point where even criminal illegal aliens face little threat of deportation, and remain here free to prey on new victims. ICE is now arresting, detaining and removing less than half of the criminal aliens that it targeted prior to 2021 ([2024-04-16-How-the-Biden-Administration's-Lax-Immigration-Enforcement-Allows-Dangerous-Criminal-Aliens-to-Run-Free-in-American-C.pdf](https://www.house.gov/imo/media/doc/2024-04-16-How-the-Biden-Administration's-Lax-Immigration-Enforcement-Allows-Dangerous-Criminal-Aliens-to-Run-Free-in-American-C.pdf) (house.gov)).

The deterioration of border security and interior immigration enforcement is truly an urgent matter that is at the top of the minds of public safety officials, state lawmakers and municipal leaders, and especially voters. While there are a number of ways that immigration laws could be improved, the reality is that the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) in its current form is sufficient to put an end to the crisis – if only it were enforced and fully applied. Until that occurs, and until the integrity of our legal immigration system is restored and once again serving our national interest, it is unlikely that Americans will support proposals for amnesties or new immigration programs.

Biden Policies Set Off Flood of Illegal Migrants, Overwhelming Federal Agencies, Border Communities, and NGOs.

The Biden administration is choosing not to enforce the laws, choosing to wave in and process thousands of inadmissible aliens every day instead of patrolling and preventing illegal entry, choosing to process benefits for these illegal migrants instead of for citizens and legal immigrants, choosing to release unaccompanied alien children to unvetted sponsors, choosing to flood the immigration courts with long-shot asylum cases, choosing to leave detention beds empty rather than allow ICE to pursue cases of aliens who are arrested, choosing to abandon worksite enforcement that would deter employers from hiring unauthorized workers instead of U.S. workers and, most recently, choosing to allow unlawfully present aliens to receive taxpayer subsidized health insurance.

When President Biden took office, he inherited the most secure land borders in U.S. history, with expanded and improved barriers, updated technology, and more personnel, all of which was backed up by policies that deterred migrants from crossing illegally and discouraged illegal aliens from remaining. As smuggling organizations and migrants became aware of the new policies, and as the processing and transportation networks were established within the country, the southern border was transformed into a chaotic, dangerous, and seemingly lawless frontier. It remains so today, except in the parts of Texas that have been secured by state authorities.

From the first day of his presidency, Joe Biden and his appointees began dismantling a laundry list of policies that had succeeded in controlling the years-long wave of illegal migrants hoping to take advantage of our dysfunctional asylum system and court rulings that require minors and those arriving with minors to be released into the country. He ended construction of the border wall system; terminated the Migrant Protection Protocols that sent tens of thousands of alleged asylum seekers to wait in Mexico; cancelled agreements with transit nations to offer safe haven to migrants and enforce their borders; relaxed application of Title 42 pandemic controls so that minors and families could enter; began awarding immigration parole to tens of thousands of illegal crossers, in defiance of the intent of Congress; extended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to citizens of more nations and more recent arrivals; established strict limitations on interior enforcement to suppress deportations of all but the most egregious criminals; and launched plans for a new asylum system designed to expedite the legalization of illegal border crossers.

Not surprisingly, the number of illegal border crossers has exploded, in response to what the migrants call Biden's "invitación." It was well understood around the globe that a large share of migrants who crossed the border illegally, especially those from certain countries, minors, and those bringing minors, would be apprehended by the Border Patrol, and would soon be released

and transported to their destination in the United States, despite low expectations that they will comply with immigration proceedings or ever qualify to remain legally.

While apprehensions are a good metric for assessing the number of migrants who have attempted to enter illegally, the more important statistic is the number of migrants who were released into the country. According to DHS Secretary Mayorkas, more than 85 percent of these illegal migrants have been allowed to enter country – in defiance of federal laws stating that, with few exceptions, they should be held in custody for expedited due process and removal (<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/mayorkas-tells-border-patrol-agents-illegal-immigrants-released-into-us-sources>).

The House Judiciary Committee has estimated that at least 4.7 million illegal aliens have been released into the country since President Biden took office. Only about 10,000 of those released have completed their immigration proceedings and been removed. Releasing illegal migrants instead of promptly removing them has swamped ICE's dockets and the already-dysfunctional immigration courts. As of the end of FY2023, there were 6.2 million cases on ICE's non-detained docket, of whom more than 617,000 have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. (<https://judiciary.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/republicans-judiciary.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/2024-01-18-new-data-reveal-worsening-magnitude-of-the-biden-border-crisis-and-lack-of-interior-immigration-enforcement.pdf>.)

Open Border/Catch and Release Policies Undermine Public Safety. Besides the enormous fiscal costs of providing transportation, shelter, medical care, schooling, and other services to the illegal migrants, the Biden catch and release policies have created new public safety problems, with a human cost that is incalculable. Proponents of mass immigration often claim (without evidence) that illegal immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than Americans, and therefore concerns about crimes committed by illegal immigrants are exaggerated, misplaced, or motivated by racial animus. These assertions are unproven, usually based on faulty interpretations of crime or Census data, and defy common sense and experience. They are profoundly demeaning to the victims of crimes committed by released illegal migrants who by law should have been detained and removed to their home country after apprehension. These are victimizations that are directly attributable to the Biden border catch and release policies.

For example, millions of Americans have seen the video of a shocking attack on police officers in Times Square by a group of migrants in New York City (<https://www.foxnews.com/us/migrants-stomped-kicked-nypd-officers-vicious-times-square-attack-yet-arrested>). In another disturbing case, New York City authorities recently arrested eight members of a ring of Venezuelan illegal migrants who were living in the city's shelters, and who are accused of stealing scooters to cruise through city streets and snatch phones and handbags, sometimes violently. The phones were then hacked to gain access to financial information, and the victim's bank accounts were drained. (<https://www.foxnews.com/us/illegal-masterminds-nyc-robbery-ring-hacked-bank-apps-resold-stolen-phones-overseas>). Reportedly, the suspects are associated with the violent Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. Gang members and hundreds of other criminals are believed to have escaped through tunnels from a Venezuela prison last year, and dozens have been arrested after illegally crossing our southern border. There is no way to know how many may have been caught and released, because immigration agents have no way to access records in Venezuela, and no diplomatic or law enforcement

relationships to assist in the vetting of these migrants (<https://www.ksm.com/news/fbi-agent-others-warn-of-venezuelan-gang-entering-into-us/>).

The most tragic outcomes of these irresponsible policies have already occurred. Just three months ago, Georgia nursing student Laken Riley was kidnapped and brutally murdered by an illegal alien who had been caught and released at the border. A House Judiciary Committee report provides a chronology of how the man accused of killing Riley was able to enter and remain in the United States:

According to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Biden Administration released Ibarra into the United States in 2022 after he “entered the U.S. illegally from Venezuela.” The Biden Administration released Ibarra into the country because it determined that Ibarra’s release was warranted due to “urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit,” despite Ibarra’s reported affiliation with the dangerous Venezuelan prison gang Tren de Aragua.

Ibarra’s February 23, 2024, criminal arrest was not his first arrest in the United States. On August 31, 2023, New York City Police Department officers arrested Ibarra and charged him “with acting in a manner to injure a child less than 17 and a motor vehicle license violation.” Two months later, in October 2023, Ibarra and his brother Diego Ibarra “were issued citations after being accused of shoplifting” in Georgia. When Jose Ibarra “failed to appear in court” on December 20, “[a] bench warrant was issued” for his arrest. Despite Ibarra’s criminal record, ICE did not arrest him.

In March, Haitian citizen Cory Alvarez was charged with aggravated rape of a disabled 15-year old girl in a Comfort Inn in Rockland, Massachusetts, that was being used as a shelter for newly arrived migrants. Alvarez reportedly came to the United States from Haiti in June, 2023 and was granted parole, with a “sponsor” in New Jersey (<https://cis.org/Arthur/Haitian-CHNV-Parole-Migrant-Arrested-Aggravated-Rape-Massachusetts>).

Less than a week ago, Marvin Dionel Perez Lopez, age 20, a citizen of Guatemala, was arrested in Lake Worth, Florida and accused of snatching an 11-year old girl off the street and raping her in his van. He had crossed the border illegally in January, 2024, was released by the Border Patrol, and went to Florida, with an immigration court date scheduled in 2027. (<https://cbs12.com/news/local/lake-worth-man-arrested-for-kidnapping-sexually-assaulting-minor-marvin-dionel-perez-lopez-white-van-k-9-unit-saturday-captive-florida-may-6-2024>)

Migrants arriving at the border now receive only the most cursory screening before they are released into the country, which includes a fingerprint check of U.S. security, criminal justice, and immigration databases, a brief interview, and little other screening. Border officials generally cannot access criminal records in other countries, or do extensive background checks. Even worse, since the number of illegal crossings has reached crisis levels, border officials have sometimes been too overwhelmed to read and act on the results of security checks that indicate that an alien they have apprehended might be a threat. In at least four cases that I know of, a Lebanese-born Venezuelan citizen, a Colombian, and Afghan, and a Pakistani, border patrol agents released men who were watchlisted as known or suspected terrorists (<https://cis.org/Bensman/Report-ICE-Releases-BorderCrossing-Terrorist-Suspect-Venezuela-Despite-FBI-Recommendation>, <https://www.oig.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/2023-07/OIG-23-31-Jun23-Redacted.pdf>, [EXCLUSIVE: Pakistani Illegal Immigrant On Terror Watchlist](#)

[Given Free Day Of Release In US | The Daily Caller, https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/man-terrorist-watchlist-was-dropped-program-monitors-migrants-rcna148205](https://www.nbcnews.com/news/investigations/man-terrorist-watchlist-was-dropped-program-monitors-migrants-rcna148205).

Cartels Are Thriving and Expanding Into the United States. Thanks to unprecedented opportunities to move people and drugs across our border, the Mexican cartels and other transnational criminal organizations are reaping unprecedented profits, to the tune of \$30 million a day, or nearly \$1 Billion a month, according to a House Budget Committee report. They use the funds to acquire more sophisticated weapons and technology to solidify control over their territories in Mexico and beyond. More worrisome for the long term, however, is the way the cartels are using this cash cow to underwrite an expansion of their operations *within* the United States. This expansion presents profound implications for public safety that will persist for years into the future.

According to Border Patrol testimony to Congress, the smuggling fee is currently about \$8,000 for passage to America. Many migrants make only a down payment up front of about \$500, and agree to work off the rest when they get to their destination. The remainder is typically paid through debt bondage accomplished by wage garnishment, fees for housing and food, and other forms of exploitation and outright threats and extortion. Long-haul migrants from other continents pay more, sometimes up to \$50,000. It is Biden's catch and release policy that entices these migrants to put themselves into the hands of a criminal organization, risking their own safety to journey here, and then being subject to exploitation, abuse and trafficking for labor and other purposes.

The migrant-moving business is lucrative enough, but it also helps further another critical illicit cartel activity — drug smuggling. The cartels routinely send large groups of migrants over the border in certain areas to bog down the Border Patrol while they move drug loads through the other unguarded areas, along with high-value clients, such as criminals and watch-listed individuals, who don't want to be caught by the Border Patrol.

In the last three years, the amount of illicit drugs flowing into American communities has exploded, with deadly, tragic consequences, and the cartels are behind nearly all of it, according to a recent [exhaustive report](#) by the House Homeland Security Committee. It's happening not just in southwest border states, not just in cities, but also in rural areas, including Montana, Kansas, Kentucky, and many others.

The cartels are not humanitarian actors seeking to help asylum seekers; nor are they young, impetuous gang-bangers. They behave like terrorists, and they have a plan, for which they hire well-trained and well-armed violent thugs to carry out. The porous border and catch and release policies have made it easy to move their operatives into this country as well.

In 2022 federal authorities alone made more than 300 arrests for Mexican cartel-related crimes, according to one analysis [[Map: Tracking drug cartel arrests across the United States \(newsnationnow.com\)](#)]. The cartels are sophisticated business people, and nimble at adapting to emerging opportunities. They have evolved horizontally to branch out into new ventures, for example human trafficking as well as drug trafficking, in fentanyl trafficking as well as heroin and marijuana trafficking, and stealing oil as well as automobiles. Noticing the trend in some jurisdictions away from imposing stiff consequences for shoplifting and burglary, some cartels have branched out into the \$70 billion organized retail theft industry, creating squads of

operatives to steal goods on a major scale, even roping in recent illegal migrants as a way to pay off their smuggling debt, according to Immigration and Customs Enforcement investigators [[HSL ACAMS take aim at organized retail crime | ICE](#)].

Executive Actions That Would Secure the Border. Reportedly, for more than three months, President Biden has been contemplating executive action on border security. There is no one action that would be a silver bullet, but we know from experience that a layered or multi-faceted approach would be successful in dramatically curbing mass illegal immigration. Among the actions he could take:

1. Putting the Border Patrol back on the line to patrol, and direct them to work cooperatively with border state authorities to prevent the entry of illegal migrants.
2. Resume construction of physical barriers in areas where these barriers would be effective in preventing illegal entry.
3. The administration should use diplomacy and other leverage to convince our neighbors in the hemisphere to prevent and disrupt illegal migration to the U.S. border. In addition, the administration should identify allies or partner countries to receive migrants who do not qualify for entry, as countries in Europe have done successfully (<https://cis.org/Report/Gatekeeper-Countries-Key-Stopping-Illegal-Immigration> and <https://cis.org/Transcript/Panel-Transcript-Illegal-Immigration-Sea>).
4. In addition to engaging with other countries, the President should accept help from state and local governments. Since 2021, fourteen states have sent National Guard or other troops to the southern border to assist Texas in dealing with the crisis. If the Biden administration were to change course and begin working in partnership rather than at cross purposes with the states, then these forces would be an effective force multiplier toward regaining border security under federal leadership. Similarly, the Biden administration should expand partnerships with state and local law enforcement agencies in the interior to focus on crime problems that have been exacerbated by the open border, including the spread of cartel drug operations in rural America, the proliferation of certain transnational gangs like Tren de Aragua and MS-13, and the surge in human trafficking. Such partnerships can take the form of multi-jurisdictional task forces or delegation of authority programs authorized by INA Section 287(g).
5. Instead of using discretionary parole authority on a categorical basis to allow most illegal migrants to enter and settle in the United States with a work permit, use the authority granted to the president in section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (<https://cis.org/Arthur/If-You-Title-42-Youll-Love-Section-212f>) to suspend the entry of more groups of aliens arriving illegally:

Whenever the President finds that the entry of any aliens or of any class of aliens into the United States would be detrimental to the interests of the United States, he may by proclamation, and for such period as he shall deem necessary, suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens as immigrants or nonimmigrants, or impose on the entry of aliens any restrictions he may deem to be appropriate.

President Biden used this authority as recently as December, 2023 to suspend the entry of corrupt public officials ([A Proclamation on Suspension of Entry as Immigrants and Nonimmigrants of Persons Enabling Corruption | The White House](#)). It would not be difficult to make the case for suspending the entry of other broad classes of illegal

migrants, including citizens of those countries to which they cannot be removed, or other categories of migrants that represent an articulable threat or burden to this country.

6. Adopt practical and realistic standards for handling asylum seekers that are faithful to the law and maintain appropriate standards to protect those facing persecution, but do not facilitate abuse of the system. For example, those who could have relocated within their home country, or who could have sought asylum in another country before arriving in the United States should be removed. In addition, in accordance with the law, asylum seekers should be detained until their case is complete or await proceedings in Mexico. Cases should be completed as quickly as possible, and those who do not qualify should be removed.
7. Border enforcement officers should be instructed to make maximum use of the accelerated forms of removal, including expedited removal. The Department of Homeland Security agencies and the Department of Justice should work together to impose consequences for illegal crossing, and especially for re-entry after deportation, human and drug smuggling, and other border crimes.
8. The Biden administration should suspend the Mayorkas enforcement priorities ([Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law \(ice.gov\)](#)), which greatly restrict the types of removal cases that can be pursued by ICE's Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). These should be replaced with directives to prioritize removal of all criminal aliens, prior deportees, failed asylum seekers, absconders from immigration proceedings, failed immigration benefit applicants, and aliens encountered in worksite enforcement operations. In addition, ICE/HSI should be directed to give higher priority to investigations of illegal employment, labor trafficking, identity theft, and overstays.
9. CBP-1, the program that has allowed inadmissible migrants to make appointments to enter at the land and sea ports of entry must be terminated. This program has enticed migrants to come to the U.S. border, further enriching the cartels that control the territory and the smugglers, and putting the migrants in vulnerable situations in Mexico and other transit countries and also within the United States as they work off their debt to the smugglers and cartels.
10. The president should refrain from re-designating Temporary Protective Status for recent arrivals from the countries whose citizens already have this protection, so as not to entice more illegal migration from these countries. In addition, illegal migrants should not be permitted to "sponsor" inadmissible family and friends from abroad for recently-created parole programs, which undercut our legal immigration system.

Legislative Options to Secure the Border. Although the current crisis is due to policies enacted by the Biden administration, and thus legislation is not required to restore border security, there is a role for Congress to play as well. Many of the items listed above for executive action would lend themselves to codification through legislation. In addition, there is a need for certain changes to the INA that would facilitate federal border security efforts. These include:

1. Adopting the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (HR2), which was passed by the House of Representatives and is already on the Senate's legislative calendar (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/2/summary/00#:~:text=This%20bill%20addresses%20issues%20regarding%20limits%20to%20asylum%20eligibility,&text=requires%20DHS%20to%20create%20an,employers%20to%20use%20the%20system>). This bill would provide further tools to the president for border security and address most of the loopholes and weaknesses that currently exist in the INA. It covers physical security of the border, the asylum system, the handling of unaccompanied minors and families, illegal employment, and more. Unlike the bill passed by the Senate this year, HR2 would not mandate the release of illegal migrants claiming to seek asylum, nor incentivize bogus asylum claims, nor mandate release of a certain number of inadmissible aliens, nor accelerate issuance of work permits to inadmissible aliens, nor increase issuances of green cards.
2. Congress should create a new type of “designation” for the cartels similar to the approach to international terrorist groups, which would enable authorities to target the financial assets of the cartels, to utilize other government resources, including the military and intelligence agencies, and to bar or deport foreign citizen operatives from our country.
3. Congress should act against the infrastructure that supports cartel-sponsored illegal immigration and trafficking, especially the money transmission networks that supports the vast flow of remittances to overseas. A significant share of this outflow of funds is not a transfer of funds from migrants to their families in their home countries, or even payments directly from the migrants to their smugglers, but actually huge sums of money that are being laundered by the cartels and disguised as remittances. To help disrupt this, Congress should pass new “know your customer” provisions that require money transmitters to collect secure identification from anyone sending funds abroad, in addition to levying a tax or fee on the funds that are sent.

No Urgency for a DACA Amnesty. It would be a grave mistake for Congress to give consideration to an amnesty or legalization program, either for DACA recipients or any other group of illegal aliens, at this time – when the government does not have operational control of the border and is catching and releasing illegal migrants on a mass scale. We know from past experience that rumors and public discussion of an amnesty provoke more illegal immigration as hopeful migrants rush to get here before the opportunity might be cut off. In the years following the implementation of DACA, Customs and Border Patrol reported a significant increase in the number of illegal aliens being apprehended at the southern border, and the number of unaccompanied minors and parents bringing children began to increase noticeably. This influx continued at what were then record-breaking levels for several years, until dropping off sharply in early 2017, when President Donald Trump implemented new policies. The general awareness of the DACA program, the push for a large-scale amnesty in 2013, and Barack Obama's attempt to enact a similar amnesty by executive fiat in 2014 likely contributed to an impression among illegal migrants that an amnesty that would cover their children, if not their entire family, was very likely to be enacted in the near future.

There is no doubt that the DACA benefits have been a major blessing for the recipients and their families. The educational institutions they attended and their employers also benefited. But there also have been some adverse side effects for the American economy, for local communities, and for our immigration system. The DACA program not only was an egregious

abuse of executive authority, it was carelessly implemented. It has displaced legal U.S. workers from employment opportunities, added to the cost of public welfare and assistance programs, provided deportation protection to criminals, diverted resources away from processing benefits for legal immigrants, invited fraudulent applications, and helped inspire a surge of new illegal immigration.

Proponents of a DACA amnesty argue that the DACA beneficiaries arrived as children, did not choose to live here illegally, have grown up like Americans, and are unfamiliar with and have no ties to their country of citizenship. In the past, these amnesty proposals have lacked sufficient support in Congress due to concerns about the significant fiscal costs (<https://www.cbo.gov/publication/53409>), the labor market effects that result in displacement and wage depression for U.S. workers, and the need to avoid encouraging more illegal immigration, especially at a time when border security and interior enforcement have not reached their full potential. Further, there are legitimate concerns about the lack of rigor in the vetting process for DACA. (<https://cis.org/Testimony/Oversight-Administrations-Decision-End-Deferred-Action-Childhood-Arrivals>). The lenient eligibility criteria and “lite and lean” background checks that were directed under then-USCIS Director Alejandro Mayorkas meant that many individuals with criminal histories were able to obtain DACA. According to a USCIS report, about 12 percent of DACA applicants had arrest records, include assault, battery, rape, murder and driving under the influence, and 85 percent of those applicants were approved. (<https://www.uscis.gov/archive/uscis-releases-report-on-arrest-histories-of-illegal-alien-who-request-daca#:~:text=Of%20approved%20DACA%20requestors%20with%20an%20arrest%2C%20more%20than%2031,approved%2E2%80%9D%20as%20of%20October%202019>).

There is very little socio-economic, educational, or employment data available to the public about DACA beneficiaries, but in what little information about this population that has been disclosed, there is nothing to suggest that DACA beneficiaries are filling jobs that Americans (or legal immigrants) can't or won't do. The DACA policy did not require applicants to have completed a minimum level of education or have any particular skills. Applicants only had to have completed high school or be enrolled in an educational program, loosely defined, and applicant claims were not verified. The most credible research on the DACA population suggests that a significant share of the beneficiaries, between one-fifth and one-half, are adults who have not completed high school or have a high school degree but no further education. DACA beneficiaries span the entire spectrum of educational achievement, but on average they are somewhat less educated than the U.S. population as a whole. Therefore, they are not filling any particular gaps in the U.S. labor market, especially considering that there are millions of Americans who have dropped out of the labor market. (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/DACA-Recipients-Work-Education-Nov2017-FS-FINAL.pdf> and <https://cis.org/Vaughan/Research-Dreamers-Contradicts-Public-Image>).

Members of Congress again are being confronted by passionate advocates for an amnesty. You must also remember that constant increases in immigration have consequences for Americans, and that continued tolerance of illegal immigration damages the integrity of our legal immigration system and erodes public support for legal immigration. For these reasons, an amnesty is appropriate only if it occurs after the border is under operational control and interior enforcement is robust. It should be kept to a small scale with well-defined eligibility criteria that

are consistent with other legal immigration categories, and it should be enacted along with other provisions to mitigate the unavoidable fiscal costs, increases in chain migration, and encouragement to illegal immigration that will ensue.

Jessica M. Vaughan
Director of Policy Studies
Center for Immigration Studies
Washington, DC

Testimony of Tom K. Wong Before the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”
May 8, 2024

My name is Tom K. Wong and I’m an associate professor of political science and founding director of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego. I am an expert on immigration politics and policies and have published multiple books and dozens of articles and policy reports on these topics. I have researched the impact of DACA since its creation. This includes an annual survey of DACA recipients that I do in partnership with the Center for American Progress (CAP), the National Immigration Law Center (NILC), and United We Dream (UWD). I have surveyed DACA recipients every year for the past decade.

A pathway to citizenship for dreamers will significantly improve the American economy.

Undocumented young people already contribute to the U.S. economy by paying taxes that help pay for schools, infrastructure, and other important public services. Indeed, everyone living and working in the U.S. pays taxes regardless of their immigration status.¹ According to one estimate, dreamers contribute an estimated \$45 billion to the U.S. economy each year through their wages and pay \$13 billion annually in combined federal, state, and local taxes.²

A pathway to citizenship would allow undocumented young people to participate more fully and more productively in the labor force. More specifically, a pathway to citizenship would increase employment among undocumented young people from an estimated 48 percent to

¹ For example, everyone pays sales taxes when we purchase goods. Everyone also pays property taxes, either directly as homeowners, or indirectly as renters.

² Fwd.US. (2023). “Dreamers: By the Numbers,” Fwd.US. Online: <https://www.fwd.us/news/dreamers-by-the-numbers/>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

approximately 94 percent.³ These employment gains would also be met with wage gains, which accrue to undocumented young people as they are able to adjust their immigration status. Altogether, these employment and wage gains suggest that a pathway to citizenship for dreamers would add \$2.5 billion per year in additional state and local tax revenue.⁴ This is a conservative estimate, as new research on DACA recipients, including my own, shows that the economic impact of DACA has outperformed most economic models. More specifically, whereas the estimate of \$2.5 billion per year in additional state and local tax revenue assumes a just over 8 percent increase in wages because of legal status, evidence from DACA recipients shows that the wage gain for undocumented young people can be as high as 164 percent.⁵

Another estimate shows that a pathway to citizenship for undocumented young people could lead to an estimated \$799 billion increase in gross domestic product (GDP) over a decade.⁶ A derivative benefit of this increase would be the creation of an estimated 285,400 new jobs because of providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented young people.

³ Wong, et al. (2023). “2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo,” Center for American Progress. Online: <https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/03/New-DACA-Survey-2023-Toplines14.pdf>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

⁴ Wiehe, Meg and Misha Hill. (2018). “State and Local Tax Contributions of Undocumented Young People,” Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy. Online: <https://itep.org/state-local-tax-contributions-of-young-undocumented-immigrants/>. Last accessed: May 4, 2024.

⁵ Wong, et al. (2023). “2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo,” Center for American Progress.

⁶ Peri, Giovanni and Reem Zaiour. (2021). “Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth,” Center for American Progress and UC Davis Global Migration Center. Online: <https://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/06/EconImmigration-scenario3.pdf>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024. A previous estimate suggests that a pathway to citizenship for undocumented young people could lead to an estimated \$1 trillion increase in GDP over a decade due to an “education bump” that accrues to undocumented young people as they adjust their immigration status and pursue educational opportunities that were previously closed to them.

More generally, a recent Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate projects that immigrant workers will add an extra \$7 trillion to the U.S. economy over the next decade and an extra \$1 trillion in federal tax revenue.⁷ Indeed, in its economic outlook, the CBO points to immigration as a primary reason that the labor force will expand over the next decade, which will lead to increased economic output.⁸ More specifically, the CBO estimates that immigration will add an average of 0.2 percentage points to the annual growth rate of real GDP over the 2024 to 2034 period, “leaving real GDP roughly 2 percent larger in 2034 than it would be otherwise.”⁹ This affirms a National Academies of Sciences (NAS) conclusion that immigration has an overall positive impact on long-run economic growth in the U.S.¹⁰

DACA shows how providing a pathway to citizenship for dreamers can benefit American society and the economy more generally.

DACA has been one of the most successful immigrant integration policies that the U.S. has ever seen. Despite the legal uncertainty surrounding the program, DACA has allowed recipients to become more deeply interwoven into the fabric of American society. DACA

⁷ Campbell, Alexia Fernández. (2024). “New Data Shows Why the U.S. Needs More Immigrants,” Center for Public Integrity. Online: <https://publicintegrity.org/inequality-poverty-opportunity/immigration/new-data-shows-why-the-u-s-needs-more-immigrants/>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

⁸ Increased economic output includes increased consumer spending, as well as growth in the housing market, as immigration “will continue to stimulate construction of new homes during the second half of the 2020s, in CBOs estimation.”

⁹ Congressional Budget Office. (2024). *The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2024-2034*, Congressional Budget Office. Online: <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-02/59710-Outlook-2024.pdf>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

¹⁰ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. (2017). *The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration*, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Online: <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/economic-and-fiscal-impact-of-immigration>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

recipients, and undocumented young people, need permanent protections so that their integration success stories can continue.

Most DACA recipients have only ever known the U.S. as their home. The median DACA recipient was initially brought to the U.S. at just six years old.¹¹ To put this into perspective, the median DACA recipient was initially brought to the U.S. between the end of kindergarten and the start of first grade. To further illustrate just how deeply interwoven DACA recipients are into the fabric of American society, just under one-third of DACA recipients are parents to U.S. citizen children.¹² Not only have most DACA recipients only ever known the U.S. as their home, but for many DACA recipients, their futures are inextricably tied to the U.S. through their U.S. citizen children.

DACA recipients are one of the most highly educated subsets of American society. Nearly three-quarters of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed currently have a bachelor's degree or higher.¹³ Moreover, just over 96 percent of DACA recipients are currently employed or are enrolled in school.¹⁴

Work authorization has allowed DACA recipients to participate more fully and more productively in the labor force. For example, just over 59 percent of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed reported moving to a job with better pay because of DACA; just over 47 percent reported moving to a job with better working conditions; just under 48 percent reported moving to a job that “better fits [their] education and training”; just under 50 percent reported moving to a job that “better fits [their] long-term career goals”; just under 20 percent reported

¹¹ Wong, et al. (2023). “2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo,” Center for American Progress.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

that they obtained professional licenses; and just under 10 percent reported that DACA allowed them to start their own businesses.¹⁵

Importantly, as the country grappled with a global pandemic, an estimated 343,000 DACA recipients worked in jobs that were deemed essential by the Department of Homeland Security, including an estimated 45,000 healthcare providers and those who work in healthcare settings.¹⁶

Moreover, nearly a decade of surveying DACA recipients has shown that DACA has had a significant and positive effect on wages. Because of DACA, average hourly wages have more than doubled from \$11.92 to \$31.52 per hour.¹⁷ Average annual earnings total approximately \$67,050 and median annual earnings total \$58,240.¹⁸

Increased wages are beneficial for recipients, their families, and the U.S. economy. With higher earnings, DACA recipients pay more in taxes. In 2022, DACA recipients earned an estimated \$27.9 billion in wages and contributed nearly \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare.¹⁹ Moreover, in 2021, DACA recipients paid an estimated \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes.²⁰ With higher earnings, DACA recipients can also spend

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ Svajlenka, Nicole Prchal and Trinh Q. Truong. (2021). "Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition," Center for American Progress. Online: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition/>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

¹⁷ Wong, et al. (2023). "2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo," Center for American Progress.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ Truong, Trinh Q. and Silva Mathema. (2024). "DACA Recipients Bolster Social Security and Medicare," Center for American Progress. Online: <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-recipients-bolster-social-security-and-medicare/>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

²⁰ Svajlenka, Nicole Prchal and Trinh Q. Truong. (2021). "Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition," Center for American Progress.

more and become financially independent. Just under 31 percent of DACA recipients are first-time homeowners and pay mortgages.²¹ Moreover, just under 82 percent of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed reported that their increased earnings have “helped [them] become financially independent”; just under 79 percent reported that their increased earnings have helped [their] family financially”; and just over 38 percent reported that their increased earnings have “helped [them] take care of an elderly parent or relative.”²²

If DACA recipients can access a pathway to citizenship, their earnings and contributions could increase even further. Conversely, stripping away their legal status would decrease their tax contributions and deprive our country of a productive and dedicated cohort of young workers.

But the legal attacks against DACA mean that the futures and livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of people are uncertain.

Among the approximately one-third of DACA recipients who are parents, just under 71 percent reported that they think about “being separated from [their] children because of deportation” at least once per day or more and just under 68 percent reported thinking about “not being able to see [their] children grow up because of deportation” at least once per day or more.²³

Moreover, just over 88 percent of the DACA recipients we recently surveyed reported concerns about their own or their family’s physical safety, ability to access health care or

²¹ Wong, et al. (2023). “2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo,” Center for American Progress.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

education, the risk of food insecurity, or the risk of homelessness if they no longer had DACA and were deported.²⁴

How would losing DACA impact the lives of DACA recipients? I conducted a survey experiment wherein half of the DACA recipients we recently surveyed received the control prompt, “How likely are you to do the following?” while the other respondents received the treatment prompt, “If you no longer had DACA, how likely are you to do the following?” By comparing the differences between the control and treatment groups, it is possible to quantify how much DACA recipients anticipate their lives would change if they no longer had DACA. For example, when asked how likely they were to “participate in public events where police may be present,” just over 72 percent in the control group responded “likely” or “very likely.” However, in the treatment group, just over 35 percent responded “likely” or “very likely.” This means that DACA recipients would be 37 percent less likely to participate in public events where police may be present if they no longer had DACA.

When it comes to education, just over 58 percent of the DACA recipients that we recently surveyed reported that they would be less likely to continue their education if they no longer had DACA and just over 63 percent reported that they would be less likely to pursue new educational opportunities.²⁵ Regarding employment, just over 43 percent of the DACA recipients we recently surveyed reported that they would be less likely to look for a new job if they no longer had DACA; 42 percent reported that they would be less likely to report wage theft or other abuses by their employer; and just under two-thirds reported that they would be less likely to pursue an occupational license.²⁶ Moreover, just under 41 percent of the DACA recipients we recently

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*

surveyed reported that they would be less likely to report a crime they witnessed if they no longer had DACA and 31 percent reported that they would be less likely to report a crime of which they themselves were the victim.²⁷

A new generation of undocumented young people need legal protections.

While the lives of DACA recipients remain uncertain, there is a new generation of dreamers who do not have any legal protections. Last year, the overwhelming majority of the estimated 120,000 undocumented high-school graduates were ineligible for DACA because they arrived in the U.S. after the DACA-required arrival year of 2007.²⁸ By 2025, no undocumented high-school graduate will be eligible for DACA under current rules.²⁹ This adds to the urgency of passing permanent protections for undocumented young people.

Dreamers need permanent protections so that their integration success stories can continue.

Without permanent protections, not only will their American dreams end, but American society and the economy would be worse off if we turned our backs on this cohort of young people who are American in every sense of the word, except on paper.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ Fwd.US. (2023). "The Post-DACA Generation is Here," Fwd.US. Online: <https://www.fwd.us/news/undocumented-high-school-graduates/>. Last accessed: May 5, 2024.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

**Farmingdale
State College**
State University of New York

John S. Nader, PhD
President

May 10, 2024

Mirella Ceja-Orozco, Esq.
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: TIME-SENSITIVE REQUEST FROM FARMINGDALE STATE COLLEGE TO
SUPPORT PERMANENT PROTECTIONS FOR DREAMERS

Dear Ms. Ceja-Orozco:

On behalf of Farmingdale State College (FSC), I write to thank you for your continued dedication to working toward bipartisan support of “Dreamers,” undocumented immigrant youth who are pursuing their higher education dreams, and to encourage you to view this week’s judiciary hearing, “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth,” if you have not already.

This recorded hearing highlights the contributions of the Dreamer population and emphasizes the importance of facilitating permanent protections for all Dreamers, including those that attend FSC with and without Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) or Temporary Protected Status (TPS). Dreamers, who have grown up in the United States and are attending or have graduated from institutions like ours, are integral to our country’s success.

In November 2021, FSC became the first TheDream.US Partner College on Long Island, as well as the first institution within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, to implement the scholarships, which cover tuition, fees, books, and supplies for first-time college students and community college graduates. Since FSC accepted its first cohort, we now have 40 scholarship recipients and are on track to include 16 more students in the fall.

We are proud of the immense contributions our Dreamer students make to our campus and to our community. They are excelling and are eager to live, work, and succeed in the United States. Many pursue local employment in high-need sectors currently facing severe labor shortages, such as healthcare and engineering technology, and many more become impactful employers, homeowners, military personnel, faith leaders, and founders of thriving local businesses and entrepreneurship.

Dreamers’ success is indeed our country’s success. Expanding access to permanent protections to all Dreamers stands to make a significant impact not only on our region or on the higher education sector, but on the nation’s economy as a whole. As this judiciary hearing emphasizes, including Dream legislation in future bipartisan compromises is of the highest importance.



We thank you again for your commitment to our institution, students, and community. Please feel free to reach out to me any time with questions or for additional insights or resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J S Nader".

John S. Nader, PhD
President



Written Testimony of Dr. Matthew S. Hebbard
U. S. Senate Judiciary Committee
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”
May 8th, 2024

Thank you, Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham, for the opportunity to submit my written statement. I am Dr. Matthew S. Hebbard, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at South Texas College, McAllen, Texas.

For almost 20 years, I have served students in the Rio Grande Valley, helping many transition to college and earn degrees. As a leader at one of the largest community colleges in the region, I am committed to increasing educational attainment and transforming the local economy.

Originally from Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, I moved to Texas in 1997 for seminary and began my career in educational administration. Since 2005, I have worked in the Rio Grande Valley, where my background and experience give me a unique perspective on immigration, particularly concerning immigrant youth.

My faith in Jesus Christ guides my work in higher education. I have known many immigrant youth who aspire to college degrees, and they are among the brightest students I have served. Texas was the first state in the nation to pass in-state tuition for these students and I hope that we can continue to support them with this opportunity. Despite arguments to the contrary, none have indicated that their parents brought them here for in-state tuition; economic factors were the primary drivers.

The use of Executive Orders (EOs) by multiple administrations has negatively impacted these students, creating uncertainty and contributing to political gridlock. Both Democratic and Republican administrations share responsibility for the current impasse.

I have met numerous government officials in the Rio Grande Valley and understand the complexities of immigration, illegal migration, drug and human trafficking, and border security. The community here, much like my hometown, is comprised of hardworking people seeking a better life, collaborating across differences to find practical solutions.

In my role, I have served both Border Patrol agents and DREAMers, viewing them all as people created in God’s image. I am passionate about education for all and believe it is a divine ministry.

This complex issue involves years of failed immigration reform, political strife, and various contributing factors. As Scripture reminds us, no one is righteous, and we are all equal in Christ. Both sides of the debate have valid points, but the impasse highlights the tension between mercy and justice.

I urge the committee to find a path forward for these students, who are not at fault and deserve a chance at citizenship. They honored their parents by following them here, and we must find solutions to prevent future illegal immigration.

While I am not an expert, I believe we have the power to right the wrongs for these children. Christ’s love for children calls us to protect their status and provide a pathway to citizenship, allowing them to live productive lives.

Respectfully,

Dr. Matthew S. Hebbard

Justice and Advocacy Ministries of Disciples Home Missions Statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee on its [Hearing](#) – “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need To Protect Immigrant Youth”

Disciples Home Missions’ Justice and Advocacy Ministries empowers members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to use their voices and their actions to promote greater justice and mercy in the world! Disciples Home Missions seeks to bring a coordinated approach to influencing the church’s work for justice with a focus on three key areas: 1) Refugee and Immigration Ministries; 2) Racial Justice; 3) Environmental Justice. Justice and Advocacy Ministries urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to use this hearing to emphasize the urgent need for Congress to pass legislation such as the [Dream and Promise Act](#) (H.R. 16), which would create a path to citizenship for Dreamers – immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, and to seek further legislative solutions to provide stability and permanence for the [11 million](#) undocumented people living in the U.S. today.

Since 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided work authorization and relief from deportation to certain undocumented young people who arrived in the U.S. as children. Access to DACA has had a transformative impact on the approximately [800,000 people](#) who have been protected by it over the program’s lifetime. However, as the DACA program approaches its twelfth anniversary, DACA recipients face ongoing precarity, and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers are ineligible for its protections.

Upon receiving DACA, recipients [report](#) significantly increased incomes and expanded access to educational opportunities, benefits that strengthen American communities and institutions. In recent years, DACA has faced repeated legal challenges that threaten the stability and security of the [530,000 people](#) currently protected by DACA and their communities. A federal court decision barring the government from [processing new applications](#) for relief under DACA has left an estimated 400,000 DACA-eligible individuals [unable to access protections](#). Meanwhile, [over 600,000](#) undocumented school-age children are not eligible for protection because they arrived in the U.S. too recently.

Justice and Advocacy Ministries commends efforts by the Biden administration to [strengthen DACA](#) and [improve access](#) to core services like healthcare for DACA recipients. But DACA recipients and other Dreamers continue to face an ongoing cycle of uncertainty and fear as they build their lives in American communities. Our nation’s diverse faith traditions call upon us to honor the inherent dignity of all people – regardless of immigration status – and to work to promote justice and equitable access to security, opportunity, and freedom for all. It is incumbent upon Congress to act now to protect Dreamers and all 11 million people in communities across our country who have for too long lived under threat of detention and deportation, including by passing legislation like the Dream and Promise Act.

PRESIDENTS' | ON HIGHER EDUCATION ALLIANCE AND IMMIGRATION

Statement for the Record

Louis Caldera
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Fmr. President, University of New Mexico

Nancy Cantor
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Chancellor, Rutgers University-Newark

Raj Echambadi
Co-Chair, Steering Committee
President, Illinois Institute of Technology

Miriam Feldblum
Executive Director

Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
www.presidentsalliance.org

For a Hearing of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth

Wednesday, May 8, 2024 at 10:00 A.M.
Dirksen Senate Office Building
Room 106

Statement for the Record
 Presidents' Alliance for Immigration and Higher Education
 May 8, 2024

As students prepare to graduate across our nation's universities and colleges, we are pleased to submit this statement for the record on behalf of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration. The nonpartisan, nonprofit Presidents' Alliance brings over 550 leaders of public and private colleges and universities together on the immigration issues that impact higher education, students, campuses, communities, and the nation. Our members lead every type of nonprofit higher education institution, including private colleges and universities, large public universities, community colleges, Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and faith-based institutions. Our member campuses represent the full diversity of the higher education sector, enrolling over five million students across 42 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

As of 2021, more than 408,000 undocumented students were enrolled at institutions of higher education in the United States.¹ Dreamers, who have grown up in the United States and are attending or have graduated from American colleges and universities, are integral members of our campuses and make essential contributions as students, alumni, faculty, and staff. This week, thousands of Dreamers will graduate from colleges and universities across the country. While many of these students arrived in the United States at a young age, only a quarter are estimated to qualify for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.² This hearing presents a long-overdue opportunity to highlight the contributions of the Dreamer population not only to higher education, but to the nation as a whole. With broad public support across party lines for passing a permanent solution for Dreamers, now is the time to reach a bipartisan compromise. The looming possibility of a termination of DACA heightens the urgency for Congress to act on a permanent legislative solution for all Dreamers, including those with and without DACA or Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

The American public overwhelmingly favors permanent relief for Dreamers, and it is concerning to see Congress backing away from what was previously a bipartisan commitment to permanent relief.³ However, we are encouraged by the reintroduction of the bipartisan Dream Act, sponsored by Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham.⁴

¹ Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How Many Students Are in U.S. Colleges and Universities, and Who Are They? 3 (Aug. 2023), www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/07.23-Undocumented-Students_v3.pdf.

² *Id.*

³ Michelle Hackamn & Aaron Zitner, *Americans Want the Immigration Bill Congress Won't Pass*, *WSJ Poll Shows*, Wall St. J. (Mar. 7, 2024), www.wsj.com/politics/policy/americans-want-the-immigration-bill-congress-wont-pass-wsj-poll-shows-227b9bb8; Letter from Presidents' Alliance Steering Committee to the President, Vice President, Speaker, and Congressional Leaders (Feb. 12, 2024), www.presidentsalliance.org/presidents-alliance-steering-committees-letter-to-white-house-and-congress-for-inclusion-of-relief-for-dreamers-in-any-bipartisan-immigration-reform.

⁴ Presidents' Alliance Applauds Reintroduction of Bipartisan Dream Act Sponsored by Senators Durbin and Graham (Feb. 10, 2023), www.presidentsalliance.org/press/presidents-alliance-applauds-reintroduction-of-bipartisan-dream-act-sponsored-by-senators-durbin-and-graham.

Statement for the Record
 Presidents' Alliance for Immigration and Higher Education
 May 8, 2024

The permanent relief this legislation would provide Dreamers is needed now more than ever, as the approval of new DACA applications is enjoined and the viability of its protections for existing recipients rests precariously on a series of forthcoming decisions in the *Texas v. United States* litigation.⁵ The Presidents' Alliance submitted a friend of the court brief, joined by 168 organizations and institutions, in support of DACA in the federal government's appeal of Judge Hanen's most recent ruling, highlighting the critical contributions of DACA recipients and the economic and national security costs of ending the program.⁶

A failure by Congress to provide permanent relief for Dreamers would be devastating to the American economy, its communities, and its families. We urge Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to avoid this disastrous outcome.

Dreamers' Importance to Essential Workforces & American Innovation

Dreamers pursue and graduate from undergraduate and graduate education programs in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, and enter positions in healthcare, teaching, and business, critical fields that currently face severe labor shortages.⁷ Many Dreamers also can attest to their desire to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces to serve our country in uniform.

More than 75 percent of DACA recipients in the workforce—nearly 350,000—were employed in jobs deemed essential by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency.⁸ This includes workforces needed to fully realize the benefits of the recently passed CHIPS and Science Act.⁹ A failure to provide relief for Dreamers, including DACA recipients, impacts the future of our economy, and losing this "capable workforce" threatens national security interests as well, hampering the nation's "ability to be competitive and defend itself."¹⁰ If and when DACA is eliminated, an estimated 1,000 U.S. jobs will be lost every business day over two years.¹¹

⁵ Post-DACA Ruling: While Urging Long Overdue Congressional Action, Here's What Higher Ed, the Biden Administration, and State Leaders Can Do for Dreamers in Interim (Sept. 14, 2023), www.presidentsalliance.org/press/post-daca-ruling-while-urging-long-overdue-congressional-action-heres-what-higher-ed-the-biden-administration-and-state-leaders-can-do-for-dreamers-in-interim.

⁶ Brief of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration as Amicus Curiae Supporting Defendants-Appellants, *Texas v. United States*, No. 23-40653 (5th Cir. Feb. 1, 2024), www.presidentsalliance.org/state-of-texas-v-united-states-amicus-brief.

⁷ Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, *supra* note 1 at 9.

⁸ *New CAP Data Confirm DACA is a Positive Force for Recipients and their Families*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (Nov. 24, 2021),

www.americanprogress.org/press/release-new-cap-data-confirm-daca-is-a-positive-force-for-recipients-and-their-families.

⁹ Margaret Stock & Theresa Cardinal Brown, Council on Nat'l Sec. & Immigr., Meeting National Security Interests Requires Workers 1 (2023), www.cnsiusa.org/_files/ugd/5b8edc_d60882d303b04b3d884304fte3d192cd.pdf.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ Phillip Connor, *What happens if DACA ends?*, FWD.us (Aug. 22, 2022), www.fwd.us/news/what-if-daca-ends.

Dreamers bring diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives that make our campuses, organizations, and workplaces more dynamic and more likely to facilitate innovation. On our campuses, this can enhance collaborative learning and problem-solving, preparing future workers to navigate a globalized economy. The top 12 states where undocumented students in higher education live are: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, New Jersey, Maryland, Georgia, Virginia, Washington, and Arizona.¹² While most undocumented students in higher education are concentrated in these states, a significant number also live in other states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Michigan, North Carolina, Indiana, Utah, Ohio, Connecticut, Nevada, Kansas, and Missouri.¹³

Most undocumented students who are enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities arrived in the country as young children or youth, and among DACA-eligible students in colleges and universities, close to nine out of ten (85.2%) arrived as young children (ages 0-9).¹⁴ In addition, while the majority of undocumented students are pursuing undergraduate degrees, our research confirms that a growing number are also pursuing advanced degrees, including 19.3% of DACA-eligible students, which represents a 6.5% increase since 2019.¹⁵ Among fields of study, more than a third (37.1%) of DACA-eligible students pursuing advanced degrees have an undergraduate degree in a STEM field, and among those students, 30.5% have pursued a degree in a healthcare-related field.¹⁶ This is an especially important finding given our nation's critical need for professionals and workers in healthcare and technology, and what these fields mean for our national security and welfare.

Dreamers' Significant Economic Contributions

Dreamers have proven themselves to be powerful contributors to the economies of their cities, states, and the national economy. Over 12,000 DACA recipients count themselves as entrepreneurs, running businesses that provide employment to other members of their communities.¹⁷ DACA recipients—as both employers and employees—pay local, state, and federal taxes on approximately \$27.9 billion in annual wages, providing almost \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare.¹⁸ Annually, DACA recipients

¹² Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, *supra* note 1 at 6.

¹³ *Id.*

¹⁴ *Id.* at 5.

¹⁵ *Id.* at 8.

¹⁶ *Id.* at 9.

¹⁷ Rosa Barrientos-Ferrer, Silva Mathema & Trinh Q. Truong, *Despite Barriers, DACA Entrepreneurs Contribute To Their Communities*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (Jan 25, 2024), www.americanprogress.org/article/despite-barriers-daca-entrepreneurs-contribute-to-their-communities.

¹⁸ Trinh Q. Truong & Silva Mathema, *DACA Recipients Bolster Social Security and Medicare*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (Jan. 25, 2024), www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-recipients-bolster-social-security-and-medicare.

contribute \$760 million in mortgage payments and \$2.5 billion in rental payments.¹⁹ Ending DACA would result in significant economic losses, but extending permanent protections and work authorization to Dreamers with and without DACA could allow more individuals to contribute to the economy as entrepreneurs, employees, and taxpayers.

Dreamers' Contributions to the Presidents' Alliance

Finally, at the Presidents' Alliance, approximately 70% of our employees are first generation immigrants, including individuals, currently or previously, directly impacted by the immigration policies discussed at this hearing. We and our member institutions have benefited greatly from the talent, expertise, contributions, and work of these employees. We highlight three staff members below:

Dr. Felecia Russell, Ed.D., Director of the Higher Ed Immigration Portal. Dr. Russell received her Bachelor of Arts at California Lutheran University; a Master of Public Policy from Pepperdine University School of Public Policy; and a Doctorate of Education from Temple University, College of Education and Human Development. She is the author of *Amplifying Black Undocumented Student Voices in Higher Education* (2024). On DACA, Felicia has said, "I remember sitting at home with tears falling from my eyes because I knew DACA meant I could legally work in the country that I consider my home. With DACA, many doors opened for me; I went on to earn my master's and my doctorate, a privilege I know not all undocumented people have. Through higher education, I have created a wonderful life for myself and my family. However, I live my life in two-year increments because DACA is a band-aid and not a permanent fix. While DACA has created so many opportunities, we need to build on its successes to pass legislation to provide a permanent path for Dreamers to fully participate and thrive in America."²⁰

Ivana Lopez Espinosa, M.A., Project Associate, Campus Engagement. Ivana received her Bachelor of Arts at Gettysburg College and a Masters of Art from University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School. While Ivana currently calls Detroit, Michigan home, she was raised between Maryland and Pennsylvania. Around high school, her family settled down in South Central Pennsylvania where she quickly realized that her status may impact her goals of attending college. When DACA became legal in 2012, Ivana joined community efforts to help eligible community members to file their DACA paperwork. Her volunteer

¹⁹ Nicole Prechal Svajlenka & Trihn Q. Truong, *The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (Nov. 24, 2021), www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition.

²⁰ On DACA Anniversary, Presidents' Alliance Urges Legislative Solution and Highlights Ways Administration, States, and Higher Ed Can Support Dreamers, Presidents' Alliance (June 14, 2023), www.presidentsalliance.org/press/dacaanniversary2023.

Statement for the Record
Presidents' Alliance for Immigration and Higher Education
May 8, 2024

hours began often wrapped up around midnight to ensure no one was turned away. She was eligible for DACA in 2013 which opened doors to work and ultimately a path to pursue higher education. She graduated from Gettysburg College with a B.A. in Sociology and spent her years honing musical talent at the Sunderman Conservatory of Music. Her undergraduate experience ignited a passion for higher education. Ivana went on to receive a M.A. in Higher Education from the University of Michigan. As a graduate student, she took on multiple leadership roles and co-founded Puentes, a graduate student organization that uplifts the graduate Latine community. Her engagement allowed her to see the intersection of public health, social work, and law in higher education through rigorous coursework and fellowships. Due to her lived and educational experiences, she brings in a breadth of expertise while supporting over 190 higher education practitioners working with undocumented students across the United States. In her role, she identifies ongoing challenges undocumented students face in higher education and creates space for collaborative brainstorming, thought-leadership, and resource development.

Jason Koh, Senior Communications Manager. Jason received his Bachelor of Arts at the State University of New York at Albany. Jason previously served in the national service program AmeriCorps as a VISTA member, providing communications support for grassroots organizations in Queens, New York. Through his years in academia and advocacy for immigrant rights, he has come to understand that the people who are closest and most intimately connected to issues are the ones who often possess the solutions. But, he also witnessed firsthand some of the barriers they face—lack of resources, expertise, and technical skills—that may hinder their ability to amplify their voices to a broader audience. His current career path has been driven by a deep-seated motivation to bridge this gap. He wants to leverage his skills and experience as a former DACA recipient to make sure that the wider American public not only hears the stories of those who are undocumented and DACAmented but also empathizes with their struggles and champions their causes.

Thank you for the Committee's consideration of this urgent matter. If you have any questions, please contact Diego Sánchez, Director of Policy and Strategy, at diego@presidentsalliance.org.



Mary Smith
President
321 N. Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60654-7598
abapresident@americanbar.org
americanbar.org

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the American Bar Association (ABA), I appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement for the record of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary's hearing on May 8, 2024, titled "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth," and to urge Senators to support the Dream Act of 2023 (S. 365).

The ABA is the largest voluntary association of lawyers and legal professionals in the world. As a national voice of the legal profession, the ABA works to improve the administration of justice, promotes programs that assist lawyers and judges in their work, accredits law schools, provides continuing legal education, and works to build public understanding around the world of the importance of the rule of law.

Our perspectives on the state of the immigration system are informed in part by the firsthand experiences of ABA staff and volunteer lawyer members who provide legal services to individuals in immigration proceedings. The ABA has two longstanding pro bono projects that provide direct legal services. The South Texas Pro Bono Asylum Representation project (ProBAR), the largest provider of legal services for unaccompanied immigrant children, provides legal services to adult and child immigrants and asylum-seekers, particularly in detention. The Immigration Justice Project (IJP), located in San Diego, provides legal orientation for adult detainees as well as legal counsel for detained and non-detained adult migrants, many who are mentally incompetent to represent themselves.

The bipartisan Dream Act provides a critical pathway to legal status and citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") recipients and other deserving young immigrants, collectively known as "Dreamers." Initially established in 2012, DACA provided work authorization and temporary protection against deportation for nearly 800,000 young immigrants who have since contributed to the U.S. by bolstering the workforce, pursuing higher education, and serving in the military. Introduced in both the House and the Senate, the Dream Act would provide DACA recipients and other eligible youth an opportunity to earn legal residence and citizenship through specific educational, work, or military service requirements. The emphasis on "earn" underscores the rigorous eligibility criteria. Importantly, the Dream Act does not automatically grant legal status but is narrowly tailored with stringent requirements, applying only to individuals who have been in the U.S. for at least four years at the time of enactment. Additionally, qualifying applicants must undergo a thorough application process, including a

security and criminal background check.

This legislation aligns with American principles of fairness and opportunity. Most eligible immigrants were brought to the U.S. as children by family members, through no choice of their own. They have grown up in our country, attended school, and integrated themselves into their communities; for many, it is the only home they have ever known. These young people should not be punished for the acts of their parents. The Dream Act offers these individuals the opportunity to earn permanent legal status and become fully contributing members of our society.

While the ABA encourages Congress to promptly pass the Dream Act, we acknowledge the broader imperative for comprehensive immigration reform. In addition to passing the Dream Act, the ABA urges Congress to pass legislation addressing the needs of undocumented populations, protecting refugees and asylum seekers, recognizing the value of immigrant labor, and instituting an effective and humane immigration enforcement strategy that respects our fundamental principles of due process and the rule of law.

Thank you for this opportunity to share our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Smith".

Mary Smith
President, American Bar Association

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary



May 15, 2024

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Statement for the Record in a Hearing Entitled “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

Dear Chairman Durbin:

Through our more than 40 years of work advancing human rights, The Advocates for Human Rights knows that strong communities are formed when all people are welcomed with dignity. Systems that leave individuals in the shadows erode our communities, do not reflect the realities of human migration, and undermine basic human rights.

As the United Nations has recognized in the Global Compact for Migration: safe, orderly, and fair pathways for migration and permanence are proven to advance economic, social, and security interests of all states and the global community. Providing a pathway for Dreamers furthers these principles by providing an orderly and fair way for people who are part of our communities in all ways but their immigration status to build strong and thriving lives, be there for their families, and contribute to the fabric of their communities. By contrast, failing to provide realistic, accessible pathways thwarts these principles. It leaves people unable to invest in their futures, families, and communities. It also leaves people vulnerable to exploitation, as we know from our work to combat trafficking which continually sees traffickers using fear of deportation to coerce individuals.

As our home state of Minnesota has shown, communities are made stronger by welcoming our neighbors. We have worked to pass legislation that provides driver’s licenses to all individuals, broadens access to medical care, increases protections for vulnerable youth, and prioritizes welcome rather than forcing people to live in fear. As a result, we have one of the strongest economies in the nation and a community in which we have the chance to thrive.

It is long past time for Congress to do its part in creating safe, orderly, and fair pathways for migration and permanence by passing the DREAM Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michele Garnett McKenzie', written in a cursive style.

Michele Garnett McKenzie
Deputy Director



May 15, 2024

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA
CANISIUS UNIVERSITY, NY
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, MA
CURETTON UNIVERSITY, NE
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, CT
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NY
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DC
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, WA
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, OH
LE MOYNE COLLEGE, NY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, CA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, IL
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND, MD
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, WI
REGIS UNIVERSITY, CO
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PA
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY, NJ
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CA
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WA
SPRING HILL COLLEGE, AL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, BELIZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH

Honorable Richard Durbin	Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chair	Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee	U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate	U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510	Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Graham:

On behalf of the 27 U.S. member institutions of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), I write to reiterate my strong support for S. 365: Dream Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation, introduced last February, will help provide a path toward citizenship for hundreds of thousands of individuals who call America their home, including students and graduates of Jesuit colleges and universities.

Our support for the Dream Act of 2023 builds upon our years of advocacy for Dreamers, DACA, and undocumented students. In 2016, AJCU stated:

"Grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit mission, we are guided by our commitment to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice. We see our work of teaching, scholarship and the formation of minds and spirits as a sacred trust."

"That calls us to labor for solidarity among all people, and especially with and for the poor and marginalized in our society. That trust calls us to embrace the entire human family, regardless of their immigration status or religious allegiance. And experience has shown us that our communities are immeasurably enriched by the presence, intelligence and contributions of undocumented students, as well as of faculty and staff of every color and from every faith tradition."

We are deeply grateful to you for holding the recent hearing, "Dreams Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth" in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was an impactful reminder of your years of leadership on this critical issue, as well as your sustained efforts to spotlight and help Dreamers. Expert witnesses shared invaluable data and information during the hearing, but nothing is more powerful than hearing directly from Dreamers about their contributions to American society and their hopes for securing more stable footing in the country they call home.

Page 2

We are called to support this community. Dreamers have grown up here, made friends, learned to read and write, enrolled in college, served in the military, and been steadily employed. Dreamers and DACA recipients contribute to our nation's well-being, working selflessly in healthcare, public safety and public service, and are committed to keeping our country strong and thriving. The individuals who will benefit from this legislation work and pay taxes and contribute to our society and our economy in countless ways. They have lived their lives as Americans but without the legal status they so deserve.

Please know that the presidents of the nation's Jesuit colleges and universities stand with you to remedy this injustice and are committed to helping secure passage of the Dream Act of 2023. Thank you again for your tireless dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Garanzini SJ". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "SJ" at the end.

Michael J. Garanzini, SJ
President

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Melecio Rivera
President
World Bank

Rosemarie Salguero
Vice President
Lerch, Early & Brewer

Gabriela Colacho
Treasurer

Kirsten Keating
Secretary
Freddie Mac

Milly Rodriguez
Executive Committee At-Large
American Federation of
Government Employees

Members
Ernesto Campos
Hugo Carballo
Alicia Criado Hampshire
Jorge Granados
Flavia Jimenez
Ana Patricia Rodriguez
Rexanah P. Wyse, Esq.
Alberto Zegada

Organizations listed for
identification purposes only.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Segundo Montes, SJ
(1933–1989)
The Central American
University (UCA) "Simeón
Cañas",
El Salvador

Congressman
Joe Moakley (D-MA)
(1927–2001)

Saúl Solórzano
CARECEN President
(1961 – 2011)

**Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth
Before the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Written Testimony of Genevieve Augustin, Legal Director, CARECEN**

May 15, 2024

Committee Chair Senator Durbin and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony. My name is Genevieve Augustin, and I am the Legal Director of the Central American Resource Center (CARECEN). On behalf of CARECEN, I am writing to express full support for a legislative pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.

Since 1981, CARECEN's mission has been to foster the comprehensive development of the Latinx community by providing direct services while promoting grassroots empowerment, civic engagement, and human rights advocacy. CARECEN has been a fixture for immigrants in the Columbia Heights community and throughout the DMV area for over forty years. In the 1990s CARECEN was instrumental in advancing legislation for TPS and NACARA, which continue to offer essential protections for immigrants facing insecurity in their home countries. CARECEN has also been a fierce proponent of DACA and deeply entrenched in supporting our eligible immigrant youth with DACA and work authorization, although much of that work has been stymied by recent court orders further imperiling DACA.

As a frontlines community-based legal service provider, CARECEN can attest to the numerous contributions DACA recipients have made to our community and economy. Some are pursuing higher education, others are professionals or otherwise gainfully employed, including essential workers who served our ailing communities during the pandemic, and each of them consider the United States their home. It is unsurprising that the United States relies heavily on the steady contributions of Dreamers, estimated at over 400 billion dollars to the GDP over the next ten years for those with DACA, including over 12 billion to taxes in social security and Medicare.

Dreamers have spent far too long without recognition for their contributions to this country in a state of perpetual legal limbo. They arrived here as children and studied in our schools but still have no pathway to permanent legal status. Some are now homeowners, business owners, police officers, healthcare professionals, raising families and investing their lives here – yet they have no certainty that tomorrow they will be welcome here.

CARECEN

1460 Columbia Road, N.W. Suite C-1, Washington, D.C. 20009
Tel (202) 328-9799 • Fax (202) 328-7894 • www.carecenc.org

Although this issue has been unfairly politicized, an overwhelming majority of Americans agree that Dreamers should be able to remain in the United States permanently. Congress can give voice to its constituents and provide a permanent legislative solution for Dreamers who undeniably represent the very spirit of what it means to be American.



Statement of CHILDREN AT RISK

Submitted to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Hearing on “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

May 8, 2024

Contact:

Linda Corchado
Senior Director of Immigration

In Texas, DACA recipients are not just contributors to our economy—they are integral members of our communities. There are close to 100,000 hardworking DACA recipients in our state, most are now in their 30s. They have not only grown up amongst us but have also grown into roles that drive our state forward.¹ They are homeowners, college graduates, family leaders, and essential workers who contributed heroically during the pandemic and continue to do so. Collectively in Texas, they add \$782.7 million in federal taxes and \$436.8 million in state and local taxes to our economy annually, wielding a spending power of \$3.7 billion.²

¹ Population figures for U.S. and states based on number of active DACA recipients at the end of 2022, as recorded by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. All other estimates are based on FWD.us analysis of augmented 2021 American Community Survey data.

² Center for American Progress Source: Center for American Progress estimates based on an analysis of 2018 and 2019 1-year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata, accessed via Steven Ruggles and others, “Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, U.S. Census Data for Social, Economic, and Health Research: 2018 and 2019 American Community Surveys: 1-year estimates” (Minneapolis: Minnesota Population Center, 2020), available at <https://usa.ipums.org/usa/>; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, “Count of Active DACA Recipients, As of June 30, 2021” (Washington: 2021), available at <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/Active%20DACA%20Recipients%20%E2%80%93%20June%2030%2C%202021.pdf>

The benefits of DACA, however, extend beyond economics. The program provides stability for children whose parents are DACA recipients³. These children, who are born and raised in Texas, deserve to live free from the fear of their families being separated and torn apart. Without DACA, the risk of such outcomes increases, which may lead to severe anxiety disorders in children.⁴ These conditions include toxic stress which can alter neurobiological development, impairing brain function and long-term health.⁵ This stress affects student achievement by reducing parental engagement, disrupting behavior, impairing academic success, and hindering social skills development.

DACA also impacts the educational and psychological well-being of children of recipients. Studies show that U.S.-born children of DACA-eligible mothers have a 50% lower rate of adjustment and anxiety disorders than those whose mothers do not qualify for durable status in the U.S.⁶ The stability provided by DACA prevents emotional trauma related to parental detention or deportation, which is crucial for healthy brain development.

CHILDREN AT RISK urges Congress to take immediate action to codify DACA and create a pathway for citizenship to DACA recipients. By doing so, we can safeguard our collective future and ensure that no child in Texas bears the burden of uncertainty about their family's stability.

For children, Congress must act now to preserve DACA.

³ Gonzales, R. G., Terriquez, V., & Rusczyk, S. P. (2014). Becoming DACAmented: Assessing the Short-Term Benefits of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). *American Behavioral Scientist*, 58(14), 1852-1872. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764214550288>

⁴ Aranda, E., Vaquera, E., Castañeda, H., & Martinez Rosas, G. (2023). Undocumented Again? DACA Rescission, Emotions, and Incorporation Outcomes among Young Adults. *Social Forces*, 101(3), 1321–1342. <https://doi.org/10.1093/SF/SOAC056>

⁵ Capps, R., Koball, H., Campetella, A., Perreira, K., Hooker, S., & Pedroza, J. M. (2015). *Implications of Immigration Enforcement Activities for the Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families A Review of the Literature*.

⁶ Hainmueller, J., Lawrence, D., Martén, L., Black, B., Figueroa, L., Hotard, M., Jiménez, T. R., Mendoza, F., Rodriguez, M. I., Swartz, J. J., & Laitin, D. D. (2017). Protecting unauthorized immigrant mothers improves their children's mental health. *Science (New York, N.Y.)*, 357(6355), 1041–1044. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aan5893>

May 8, 2024

Senator Dick Durbin, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Statement for the Record for the hearing on 8 May 2024"/ Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth"

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Graham & Committee Members:

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest statewide immigrant rights organization in California, I submit this statement in strong support of undocumented youth, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and the long-term undocumented population who has been residing in the United States with limited or no pathway to citizenship, that is being heard in your Committee on the Judiciary on May 8, 2024. Our support is rooted in our unwavering conviction that immigrants with DACA, DREAMERS, undocumented youth, their families, and all 11 million undocumented immigrants are essential and help form the backbone of the United States.

Founded in 1986, CHIRLA advocates for just and humane policies that positively affect all immigrant communities. For decades, we have engaged in previous fights related to broader immigration reform, the DREAM Act and the ongoing implementation of DACA. Currently, we lead a national campaign to change the registry date of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order offer permanent protections for millions of immigrants.

Through education, organizing and advocacy, our members and our staff act as agents of social change to achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants. Additionally, CHIRLA hosts two youth branches, the California DREAM Network (CDN) and WISE UP! Both youth arms aim to organize immigrant youth and youth allies at high school and college levels to advocate for undocumented immigrant youth, and undocumented immigrants as a whole.

California is composed of diverse immigrant families and the state continues to have the largest overall immigrant population at 10.4 million or 27% of the entire state. Nearly 2 million of California's immigrants are undocumented and over 3.3 million U.S. citizens and green card holders live in mixed status families. Over time, California's immigrant population has grown not just in the larger cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco but well beyond into surrounding areas

CHIRLA wants to lift up testimony from two of our members in the context of this hearing:

Kevin:

This summer I will join a university as a faculty member after earning my Ph.D. Nearly six years ago I earned two undergraduate degrees from an Ivy League school. All my accolades would have been nearly impossible without the baseline safety and stability that DACA provides me. Without DACA I wouldn't have been able to hold my job as a printmaking studio technician, held a position as a teaching fellow in my graduate program last year, or accepted a job offer in January. Every two to three years, I am reminded that all these opportunities can go away, which is why we need a permanent solution.

Despite the tenuous safety and stability that DACA provides, I am in a privileged position. I know peers who do not have that sense of security in this country. Imagine how many people haven't been able to realize their full potential, not because they don't want to or because they haven't worked for it, but simply because of legal status. I appeal to your humanity. This is something that you can change, not just for those of us with DACA but for the whole of the undocumented community.

Sean:

I would like to highlight three key points:

- *The current status of the DACA program is precarious. Legislation is needed to stabilize the program as well as the livelihoods and future of its beneficiaries.*
- *DACA has made a positive impact in my life and to many other beneficiaries of the program who are utilizing the program to make significant contributions to the United States.*
- *The program was a temporary solution to issues that the immigration system faced more than a decade ago, but also a promise of a pathway forward.*

Over the last few years, the DACA program has faced many legal challenges, which have put the program in a precarious position. But even more importantly, these recent challenges and setbacks have destabilized the lives of DACA beneficiaries including my family and mine. I, along with my two brothers, have been beneficiaries of the program since it was first introduced. We all rely on program to maintain our livelihoods – as a public health researcher, a nurse, and an engineer. Every time the DACA program faces a legal challenge, we are left wondering whether this would be the last time that we could do what we love – helping the people around us and the community that we had grown up in. On behalf of my family and many beneficiaries of this program, I urge this body to take bold action to create legislation to protect the DACA program and secure the lives of its beneficiaries and their families.

DACA has made a significantly positive impact on my life and on many other beneficiaries. A 2023 KFF study showed that 41% of DACA beneficiaries, ages 19-41, have attended college or have a college degree or higher, 54% are working full-time, 40% have become parents and 64% reported having excellent or very good health. For me, DACA has enabled me to go to attend and graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with my bachelor's degree as well as obtain a graduate degree from

UCLA. Through the DACA program, I was able to serve as a public health researcher and health policy analyst during the one of the most crucial and challenging times in our country – the COVID-19 outbreak and pandemic. I am but one example of the many other beneficiaries who are utilizing the program to make significant contributions to the United States. An U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee report showed that over the last decade, DACA recipients have added \$460.3 billion to the U.S. economy, and many more are contributing to building new technology and pushing innovations forward, creating new businesses, and saving lives

Immigrants and undocumented immigrants have made expansive contributions to their communities and a pathway to citizenship would offer our country a stronger workforce, a more robust economy, among many other benefits. In 2022, DACA recipients earned \$27.9 billion in annual wages, contributed \$2.1 billion to Social Security, they own 68,000 homes across the country, paid \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion to state and local taxes. The larger immigration population of 11 million has provided even more.

Immigrant youth, DACA recipients, and the undocumented population as a whole need broader legislation to protect them. Next year will be the 40th year since the passage of immigration reform and many of our undocumented youth, DACA recipients, undocumented immigrants remain under constant threat and limbo. This year, like many others, Congress can pass legislation that creates permanent protections.

CHIRLA urges Congress to act quickly and recognize the indispensable contributions that the immigrant community has made for decades—as integral parts of our communities, our lives, and our country.

Please contact me at marisol.h@chirla.org should you have any questions.

Marisol Hernandez
Deputy Director of National Policy, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)



Statement for the Record

**Senate Committee on the Judiciary
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”
Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

Submitted by:
Center for Law and Social Policy
1310 L Street NW Suite 900
Washington, DC 20005

Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, we thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement for the record for the hearing titled “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth.” The Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) is a national, nonpartisan nonprofit advancing anti-poverty policy solutions that disrupt structural and systemic racism and sexism and remove barriers blocking people from economic security and opportunity. We work at the federal and state levels, supporting policy and practice that makes a difference in the lives of people experiencing conditions of poverty. CLASP works to develop and implement federal, state, and local policies (in legislation, regulation, and implementation) that reduce poverty, improve the lives of people with low incomes, and create pathways to economic security for everyone. Our immigration work focuses on advancing immigration policies that keep families together, promote health, child development, and support upward mobility.

Since its implementation, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has promoted child well-being by protecting more than 800,000 immigrants who entered the U.S. as children and have grown up in the United States.¹ DACA recipients are integral members of the American workforce, holding essential jobs as teachers, healthcare workers, grocery store clerks, and caregivers on the frontlines of the pandemic.² DACA recipients have contributed to the workforce in numerous sectors, volunteered in their communities, and supported civic engagement. For the approximately 300,000 U.S.-born children who have parents with DACA, the program helps support healthy childhood development by increasing DACA recipients’ kids’

¹ Nicole Prchal Svajlenka and Trinh Q. Truong, “The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition,” Center for American Progress (November 24, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition/>.

² *Estimates Show Immigrant Essential Workers are Crucial to America’s COVID-19 Recovery*, FWD.us (Dec. 16, 2020), <https://www.fwd.us/news/immigrant-essential-workers/>.

CLASP STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

access to critical benefits, such as employer-sponsored health insurance, and temporarily alleviating the fear of losing a parent as a result of immigration enforcement.³

Despite the tremendous success of the DACA program, it does not provide permanent protections to the over half a million current recipients.⁴ Moreover, it has been under threat multiple times, including the termination of the program in 2017 under the Trump Administration and the current fate of the DACA program currently in the hands of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Due to the injunction on first time applications put in place in 2021, nearly 100,000 potential DACA recipients continue to sit in limbo, unable to pursue educational and work opportunities that would better their lives, the lives of their families, and the wellbeing of the nation's economy.⁵ Even without the injunction, the program has excluded many Dreamers over the years due to its narrow age and education requirements, leaving many vulnerable to deportation. Congress must act swiftly to pass legislation, such as S. 365/H.R. 16, to provide Dreamers a long awaited pathway to citizenship and provide long-term stability and peace of mind.

Legal status for young immigrants bolsters our essential workforce.

Through work authorization provisions in the DACA program, over the last decade Dreamers have been able to participate as essential members of the American workforce. Data shows that approximately 343,000 people with DACA in the workforce were employed as essential workers, representing more than three-quarters of working DACA recipients.⁶ Of those, a total of 20,000 were educators and 100,000 worked to maintain our food supply chain.⁷ Additionally, approximately 45,000 DACA recipients worked in health care settings, including during the height of the pandemic, despite lacking equitable access to protect their own health.⁸ However, an estimated 270,000 immigrants with a college degree in medical and health sciences were out of work or working lower-skilled jobs during the pandemic.⁹ A pathway to legalization could have enabled their participation in the essential workforce during a time when our nation needed them.

Opening pathways to education and work can rewrite individuals' and families' futures.

³ Svajlenka and Truong, "The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients."

⁴ Active DACA Recipients (Fiscal Year 2024, Quarter 1), Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality, March 21, 2024,

https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/immigration-and-citizenship-data?topic_id%5B%D=33602&ddt_mon=&ddt_yr=&items_per_page=100&query=

⁵ https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/daca_performancedata_fy2023_q3.pdf

⁶ Svajlenka and Truong, "The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients."

⁷ Svajlenka and Truong, "The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients."

⁸ Svajlenka and Truong, "The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients."

⁹ Jeanne Batalova, "Immigrant Health-Care Workers in the United States," Migration Policy Institute, (April 7, 2023), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/immigrant-health-care-workers-united-states-2021>.

The DACA program also opened pathways to higher education for many. A 2022 DACA survey revealed that more than a quarter are currently in school while nearly half hold a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁰ Analyses of 2021 American Community Survey data estimate over 408,000 undocumented students are currently enrolled in higher education, and the Migration Policy Institute estimates that nearly 100,000 undocumented youth graduate from U.S. high schools every year.¹¹ Immigrant youth are vital to their local economies, yet have historically been left with limited options upon graduation from high school, sometimes even being barred from enrolling in public universities. The cost of a higher education is also often a barrier given that many Dreamers are first generation college students, come from families with low incomes, and lack access to federal financial aid and other forms of assistance.¹²

In recognition of the importance of immigrant students, more than half of states have implemented policies to provide in-state tuition and, in some cases, state financial aid and other supports to undocumented students.¹³ Both S.365 and H.R. 16 include provisions that would further ease financial barriers to higher education for Dreamers across the country. The bills restore states' ability to determine in-state tuition eligibility for undocumented immigrants based on residence without penalties under current law. This provision is critical to ensure that Dreamers are able to achieve their higher education goals.

As DACA recipients gain more education, they are able to work higher paying and more stable jobs. In fact, the DACA program has played an important role in lifting families out of poverty. In a recent survey of DACA recipients, the average hourly wage more than doubled after they received DACA status.¹⁴ Legal status and access to work authorization has the potential to rewrite individuals' and their families' financial trajectories.

¹⁰ Tom K. Wong, Ignacia Rodriguez Kmec, and Diana Pliego, "DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results," Center for American Progress (April 27, 2023), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-boosts-recipients-well-being-and-economic-contributions-2022-survey-results/>.

¹¹ "Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How Many Students are in U.S. Colleges and Universities, and Who Are They?," Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration and American Immigration Council, (updated Aug. 2023), https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/07.23-Undocumented-Students_v3.pdf; Jie Zong and Jeanne Batalova, "How Many Unauthorized Immigrants Graduate from U.S. High Schools Annually?," Migration Policy Institute (Apr. 2019), <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/unauthorized-immigrants-graduate-us-high-schools>.

¹² Wendy Cervantes and Duy Pham, Expanding the Dream: Engaging Immigrant Youth and Adults in Postsecondary and Adult Education, Center for Law and Social Policy, (Nov. 2017) <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/expanding-dream-engaging-immigrant-youth-and-adults-postsecondary-and>.

¹³ "Toolkit on Access to Postsecondary Education," National Immigration Law Center, <https://www.nilc.org/issues/education/eduaccess toolkit/eduaccess toolkit2/#maps>.

¹⁴ "DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results," Center for American Progress (Apr. 2023) <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-boosts-recipients-well-being-and-economic-contributions-2022-survey-results/>.

Congressional inaction has created uncertainty and fear for children in immigrant families.

The consequences of failing to provide permanent solutions for Dreamers are dire, particularly for children. Children of immigrants make up approximately one in four of all children in the United States and are the fastest growing segment of the child population.¹⁵ More than half-a-million U.S. citizen children have at least one parent who is a DACA recipient or lives with a family member who is a TPS holder.¹⁶ Given the precarious state of their parents' status, these children must live in fear of losing a parent to detention or deportation.

The removal of a loving parent or caregiver from a family with children must be avoided at all costs. Children need their parents and guardians every single day to provide essential care and emotional support. Research thoroughly documents the short and long-term negative impacts of parental separation on children's physical, developmental, emotional, and economic well-being.¹⁷ Children separated from their parents due to detention or deportation experience toxic stress, often exhibited in increased fear, anger, crying, and changes in sleeping and eating habits.¹⁸ Children also experience these threats to their physical and mental health at the mere possibility and fear of family separation.¹⁹

Additionally, families often experience short and long-term economic hardship, including instability in housing and nutrition, because of a parent's deportation or detention.²⁰ Separation from parents or primary caregivers also deny children important foundational relationships that help them regulate their emotions, meet developmental milestones, and more fully engage with their family, peers, and community. The impacts of childrens' exposure to toxic stress can be

¹⁵ "Children in U.S. immigrant Families," Migration Policy Institute, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/charts/children-immigrant-families?width=1000&height=850&iframe=true>.

¹⁶ Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, What We Know About DACA Recipients in the United States, Center for American Progress (Sept. 5, 2019), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/05/474177/know-daca-recipients-unitedstates/>; Leila Schochet and Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, How Ending TPS Will Hurt U.S.-Citizen Children, Center for American Progress (Feb. 11, 2019), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/reports/2019/02/11/466022/ending-tps-will-hurt-u-s-citizen-children/>.

¹⁷ Nicole Chávez, Suma Setty, Hannah Liu, and Wendy Cervantes, "Still at Risk: The Urgent Need to Address Immigration Enforcement's Harms to Children," CLASP (June 2023), <https://www.clasp.org/publications/report/brief/urgent-need-address-immigration-enforcement-harm-children/>; Luis H. Zayas et al., "The Distress of Citizen-Children with Detained and Deported Parents," *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 24, no. 11 (November 1, 2015): 3213–23 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10826-015-0124-8>.

¹⁸ Randy Capps et al., Implications of Immigration Enforcement Activities for the Well-being of Children in Immigrant Families, Urban Institute (Sept. 2015), <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-exhibits/2000405/2000405-Implications-of-Immigration-Enforcement-Activities-for-the-Well-Being-of-Children-in-Immigrant-Families.pdf>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

CLASP STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD

lifelong, negatively affecting their educational outcomes, career opportunities, and overall financial well being.

Children of immigrants and their families who lack lawful status also face multiple structural barriers to critical public services and programs that support their healthy development, including the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, nutrition assistance, and housing benefits. Changes to the immigration system, like the Trump Administration’s public charge rule, had a chilling effect that led families with mixed immigration statuses to avoid critical services for which they were eligible – a chilling effect that persisted two years after the Biden Administration’s rescission of the rule and likely still persists.²¹ Additional barriers like cumbersome application processes, lack of language access, and fear of enforcement based on immigration status prevent children of immigrants and their families from utilizing programs that contribute to children’s health, development, and economic stability.²²

Congress must act to protect Dreamers and their families.

Granting DACA recipients and all Dreamers a pathway to citizenship through S. 365/H.R. 16 would allow them to secure more stable employment, better access critical benefits, and remove the cloud of deportation, ultimately enabling them to provide a healthier and brighter future for their families. It would keep families together and free children and youth of toxic stress and anxiety. S. 365 contains several improvements from previous versions that have strengthened the benefits of the bill. This includes an expedited path to legalization for DACA recipients by making them immediately eligible for a green card, removing arbitrary age caps, and providing an employment pathway for those who need to work to support their families. We urge the Senate to pass the bill and continue to work towards an immigration system that advances the well-being of children of immigrants.

We thank you again for the opportunity to submit this written testimony. For any questions regarding this statement, please contact Wendy Cervantes, Director of Immigration and Immigrant Families, at wcervantes@clasp.org.

²¹ Hamutal Bernstein et al., “Amid Confusion over the Public Charge Rule, Immigrant Families Continued Avoiding Public Benefits in 2019,” Urban Institute (May 2020), https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/102221/amid-confusion-over-the-public-charge-rule-immigrant-families-continued-avoiding-public-benefits-in-2019_3.pdf; Dulce Gonzalez, Jennifer M. Haley, and Genevieve M. Kenney, “One in Six Adults in Immigrant Families with Children Avoided Public Programs in 2022 Because of Green Card Concerns,” Urban Institute (Nov. 2023), <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2023-11/One%20in%20Six%20Adults%20in%20Immigrant%20Families%20with%20Children%20Avoided%20Public%20Programs%20in%202022%20Because%20of%20Green%20Card%20Concerns.pdf>

²² Bernstein et al., 2020.

ANALYSIS COMMENTARY IMMIGRATION

More DACA recipients are homeowners than ever before

BY EMMA CAMPBELL

APRIL 25, 2024

Today, more DACA recipients are homeowners than ever before. Still, their future in the country remains uncertain, and this uncertainty threatens to undermine their many positive contributions to U.S. society and the economy.

The most recent version of the Center for American Progress's (CAP) annual survey of DACA recipients highlights their economic advancement: 30.7% of the survey's participants have purchased a home since being approved for DACA, or about 167,000 of 544,690 DACA recipients.¹

The estimated number of homeowners with DACA status has fluctuated over the years, but data from 2023 illustrates a clear spike in home purchases. The table below estimates the total number of DACA homeowners per year based on the proportion of survey participants who responded that they had purchased a home and the number of active DACA recipients around the survey period.

Year	Percent of Survey Participants Who Purchased Homes	Average Age of Survey Participants	Total Active DACA Recipients	Estimated DACA Homeowners	95% Confidence Interval Lower/Upper Bound
2023	30.7	31.8	544,690	167,220	146,576 / 189,116
2022	17.7	29.2	589,660	104,370	89,569 / 121,116
2021	16.5	28.2	611,470	100,893	87,012 / 115,384
2020	20.4	28.2	636,390	129,824	115,250 / 145,351
2019	13.6	26.5	649,070	88,274	75,357 / 102,164
2018	13.7	25.7	699,350	95,811	81,754 / 111,476
2017	15.7	25.2	689,800	108,299	99,538 / 117,542

Sources: Center for American Progress, USCIS

Using data from the 2018-2019 American Community Survey, CAP estimated that in 2021, DACA recipients owned more than 68,000 homes across 40 states (homeownership rates were unavailable for the remaining 10 states). This number may be underrepresented because many DACA recipients likely fall into what the Census Bureau calls a "Hard-to-Count Population."

Several factors, including age and access to loans, likely contribute to this spike in home ownership. DACA recipients' average age reached 31.8 years in 2023, which continues to inch closer to the United States' average first-time home buyer age of 36. Relatedly, one-third of DACA recipients also now have U.S. citizen children—a higher proportion than ever before.

In recent years, lawmakers have also expanded DACA recipients' access to loans to purchase homes. Three years have passed since the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) made DACA recipients eligible for FHA mortgages. Since then, legislation introduced in Congress has sought to protect DACA recipients' eligibility in the long term.

DACA recipients' homeownership has generated over \$760 million in mortgage payments—a sum that will be lost if the DACA program ends, not to mention the loss of local property taxes generated by these properties.

Homeownership also **positively impacts** educational achievement, health, civic participation, and crime rates. By purchasing homes, DACA recipients thus contribute to the stability of their families and neighborhoods.

The Supreme Court will rule on the DACA program's legality later this year. Until then, recipients will continue living in uncertainty. When the time comes for the Supreme Court to finally make a decision, DACA recipients' many positive contributions to U.S. society and—as illustrated by their homeownership rates, the economy—should be front and center.

1. The survey's relatively small sample size of 560 may limit the reliability of this assumption. However, a confidence interval based on CAP's survey results indicates that with 95% certainty, the number of DACA recipients who are homeowners falls between 146,576 and 189,116. ↩

1201 New York Ave. NW, Suite 200B
Washington, D.C. 20005

202.899.1166
contact@niskanencenter.org

This work is licensed under a
[Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/)

✉ [SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER](#)





DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY
Office of the President

7900 W. Division Street (708) 524-6819 dom.edu
River Forest, Illinois 60305 president@dom.edu

Dear Congress,

On behalf of Dominican University, we thank you for making time to discuss the important topic of Dreamers, undocumented youth in the United States. We urge Congress to pass legislation that protects all undocumented youth facing barriers to citizenship and opens a future where they can contribute to the betterment of the world around them. With over 11 million undocumented immigrants in the country, approximately 600,000 are students in Kindergarten through 12th grade, and 300,000 are pursuing a degree in higher education. Under the bipartisan 2023 Dream Act proposed by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), 1.6 million undocumented youth who would have been eligible for conditional residency already completed high school or its equivalent, and 250,000 earned a college degree. These statistics demonstrate that immigrant youth is capable and interested contributing positively to the United States.

Dominican has a longstanding history of making education accessible, regardless of immigration status. As a Sanctuary Campus, Dominican University is one of the first universities in the country to publicly welcome and support students regardless of immigration status. We are committed to providing a campus climate and an academic experience that promotes the well-being of all persons, especially those who are historically marginalized. We have long welcomed undocumented students to our campus in River Forest, Illinois—many supported with scholarships through our partnership with TheDream.US—and we will begin welcoming additional students to our new Chicago Campus this fall as well.

Despite the challenges they face, undocumented students often rise to the top of their class, demonstrating academic excellence and leadership. TheDream.US scholars at DU have achieved the following impressive accomplishments:

- TheDream.US Scholars outpace the total DU population in Year 1 to Year 2 retention by an average of 12 percentage points.
- In Fall 2023 TheDream.US Opportunity Scholars earned a 3.63 average GPA and 100% are still enrolled.
- TheDream.US average 4-year graduation rate is 75.3%, which is 30 percentage points above DU as a whole.
- TheDream.US average 5-year graduation rate is 81.5%, which is 26 percentage points above DU as a whole.
- Advocated for immigration reform and DACA protections in Washington, D.C.
- Won awards for academic achievement and community service.
- Selected for prestigious research fellowships and pursued advanced degrees.
- Organized and presented at national conferences.
- Often been first in their families to attend and graduate from college.
- Worked multiple jobs while attending school full-time.

Our mission involves preparing students to participate in the creation of a more just and humane world. Securing the futures of undocumented youth sets the foundation for them to do just that. While in years past, the majority of our undocumented students had Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), in the last four years, the number of students eligible for DACA has decreased drastically, leaving the majority of undocumented youth without the ability to work legally and be protected from deportation. Their ability to buy homes, invest in businesses, build credit, and bank in the United States is limited without a valid social security number and a legal status. Nonetheless, undocumented immigrants contribute in meaningful ways to the economic health of the country, including serving in the most critical industries with labor shortages, including health care, retail, construction, manufacturing, food services, transportation, and social services.

Recently, one of our students was featured in a local news piece highlighting the need among Chicago's undocumented for work authorization. This student has lived in the United States for nearly her entire life, and yet, her aspirations of becoming a history teacher are in doubt because her undocumented status makes her unable to legally work.

"I cannot be the representation my students will need if I cannot step foot into the classroom," the student told the publication.

A Dominican alum and DACA recipient shared how she has found a way to give back to her community even when her status is in limbo.

"My experiences at DU shaped me to be the leader that I am today and have helped me continue serving our undocumented students on campus. Even after DACA had been threatened during my time as a student, my DU community provided a space for me to feel safe."

We understand that the issue of immigration policy is a contentious one, but we urge you to center humanity, responsibility, and safety as you make your decision. Dreamers deserve the right to continue contributing to the workforce without the fear of deportation, as well as the nation deserves the right to benefit from the meaningful multifaceted contributions of immigrants in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Dominican University



May 15, 2024

Dear Chairman Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Members of the Committee,

As a Christian, liberal arts university situated in one of our nation's most vibrant and diverse zip codes, since its founding by Swedish American immigrants in 1891, North Park University has prepared generations of students to "live lives of significance and service." When the first Swedish American students walked through our doors in the late 1800s, they pursued an education at our university in hopes that their children and future generations would not have to face the same financial hardship and social barriers they endured. Welcomed by what our first university president David Nyvall called "harmony in the midst of diversity," these students were greeted with "hospitality...especially insisted upon" and were given the opportunity to dream of a new future here.

Due in part to the hospitality these same students experienced, as the city of Chicago grew beyond its borders towards North Park's doorsteps, the diversity and pluralism that accompanied it were welcomed with open arms. For this reason, our neighboring community of Albany Park became a most hospitable place for future immigrants seeking refuge or opportunity. From European Jews in the 1950s, to Koreans in the 1970s, Guatemalans in the 1980s, and Lebanese, Mexicans, Somalians, and many others today, our students and alumni hail from virtually every corner of the world.

It is with this "hospitality especially insisted upon," that I, as President of North Park University, the senior cabinet, administrators, faculty, staff, and students urge Congress to reinvigorate its commitment to protecting noncitizens who were brought to the US as children, individuals known as Dreamers.

Today, Dreamers grace our classrooms, dining halls, and surrounding community, bringing with them the same aspirations and hopes that animated our original founders; the same founders who held fast to scriptures such as Leviticus 19:34 (MSG): *³⁴ The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself...I am the LORD your God.*

And so, we pray that Congress will pursue such conversations with urgency and civility, with "hospitality especially insisted upon" for the Dreamers in our midst.

With gratitude and respect,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary K. Surridge".

Mary K. Surridge, President
North Park University

Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth

Witness Testimony

May 6, 2024

I have advocated for the rights of undocumented students for much of my higher education career. And, over that career, I have awarded hundreds of diplomas to talented dreamers, who, despite obstacle after obstacle, most recently the loss of DACA, have cobbled together constructive, hopeful lives.

Recently, I was talking to one of those long-graduated dreamers, whose oldest child, born in the US, was now applying to college. Until recently, that son of a mixed status family, through no fault of his own, could not complete the FAFSA. Is there no end to the careless manner in which we treat decent, hardworking immigrant families?

The experience of dreamers is poignant — brought to the US as children without choice or papers and then treated as bad actors. Many did not know that they were undocumented until they applied for college or wanted to look for a job. DACA provided some semblance of normalcy, and then it was yanked back. Some states finally gave dreamers access to scholarships; other still do not even let them apply to college.

Today, approximately 10% of the undergraduate students at my former university are undocumented. That makes me proud — first and foremost, because it is an expression of the social justice mission of a Catholic institution; but also, because it is “good business.” These are honors students, industrious, civically engaged, with high retention and graduation rates. The university is stronger intellectually as a consequence of their participation, and their stories have challenged other students to be broader minded and generous human beings.

Right this wrong. It is past due.

Donna M. Carroll, EdD

Executive Director, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

President Emerita, Dominican University

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

May 7, 2024

Dear Members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee:

We are writing to encourage you to find a workable solution for Dreamers, the young undocumented immigrants in our country who were brought here as children, many of whom are contributing greatly to our society. We thank you for holding tomorrow's hearing, *Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth*, and hope it is the start of bipartisan negotiations to move forward on a solution.

More than two million Dreamers have grown up in our communities, been educated in our schools, and are now studying, working or defending our country as service members. Approximately 530,000 of these Dreamers are currently protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, but we have concerns that the program is both a temporary and imperfect tool to protect Dreamers. Many eligible Dreamers are being blocked from applying for DACA protection because the program is in legal limbo. This issue begs for a permanent legislative solution and demands bipartisan leadership on Capitol Hill.

Dreamers are leading in our churches and our communities. They are studying in our universities and creating jobs for American workers. They are paying taxes. These young people have shown through their great determination and fortitude that our nation is better off because of their presence. We hope that you will work to find solutions that allow these young people to stay in our country long term and continue to be a blessing to our communities.

Dreamers, who stepped forward in good faith in large numbers when the U.S. government allowed them to do so, are not threats to the United States. By enrolling in DACA, they already have submitted to screening for criminal activity and potential threats to national security. There are also Dreamers who would have been eligible for DACA but were too young – under age 15 – to enroll before the program stopped accepting new applications in 2017. They too should be eligible to stay in this country.

We also affirm the urgent need for other immigration policy reforms, including solutions at the U.S.-Mexico border. However, a lack of movement in one area does not have to prevent movement in another. Congress could address multiple challenges at once – and evangelical Christians want them to do so. A recent study by [Lifeway Research](#) found that fully 80% of evangelical Christians would support reforms that would include a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, improvements to border security and reforms to ensure an adequate number of visas for agricultural workers.



Now is the time for bold leadership. In September 2023, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen ruled that DACA is unlawful. While Judge Hanen stayed the effects of that decision on existing DACA beneficiaries, maintaining their protection from deportation and work authorization for the time being, the program faces significant legal challenges and an uncertain future. In light of the court decision, DACA recipients brought to the U.S. as children – most of whom are now adults, many of whom now have U.S.-born children of their own who rely upon them – could eventually lose their work authorization and protection from deportation. Even with DACA still in place, most young Dreamers who graduate from high school do not have access to the program. Today, only one-third of Dreamers enrolled in a college or university have DACA or are DACA-eligible. The rest have lived most of their lives in the U.S. without access to a work permit or protection from deportation. This underscores the need for a legislative solution.

We ask you to work with House leadership and the White House to develop and pass legislation to protect Dreamers. There are bipartisan bills that would provide permanent legislative solutions for Dreamers, including the Dream Act (S. 365) introduced by Senators Lindsey Graham and Dick Durbin. The committee could mark up the Dream Act or use the bill as a starting point for further negotiations. Congress has a responsibility to deal with this issue in a just and humane way.

A solution for Dreamers has been a longstanding priority for the Evangelical Immigration Table, which is a broad coalition of evangelical organizations and leaders advocating for immigration reform consistent with biblical principles. As Christians, we believe that all immigrants are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27), deserving to be treated with dignity. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, we find God commanding his people to treat foreigners with hospitality. In Leviticus 19:33-34, God reminds the Israelites:

When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the Lord your God.

Jesus Himself taught his disciples that by welcoming a “stranger,” we could be welcoming Him (Matthew 25:35). As Americans, we are proud that our country has affirmed the biblical principle of valuing and protecting immigrants while also protecting national security.

We offer our prayers as you and your advisors make this and countless other important decisions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Evangelical Immigration Table Organizations:

Asian American Christian Collaborative
 Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
 Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention
 Faith and Community Empowerment
 National Association of Evangelicals
 National Latino Evangelical Coalition
 The Wesleyan Church
 World Relief

The Evangelical Immigration Table www.EvangelicalImmigrationTable.com



Statement of the American Immigration Lawyers Association
Submitted to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Hearing on “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”
May 8, 2024

Contact:

Gregory Chen
 Senior Director of Government Relations
gchen@aila.org

Jennifer Ibañez Whitlock
 Supervisory Policy and Practice Counsel
jwhitlock@aila.org

America urgently needs to modernize its immigration system. After nearly 30 years without major reforms, the country is unable to fully capture the enormous benefits that immigrants and their families bring to their communities, businesses, the economy, and the country. As the national bar association of nearly 17,000 immigration lawyers and law professors, the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges Congress to create a more efficient, orderly, and fair system to meet the nation’s needs. Essential to any reform is providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and other people who have lived in and contributed to our country but have no way to obtain permanent immigration status.

Dreamers are a particularly compelling population due to their circumstances as young people who were brought to the United States at an early age and only know America as their home. With the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in 2012, many Dreamers have received temporary legal status and work permits.¹ According to 2021 data, over 800,000 people have been granted DACA and it is estimated that over 900,000 U.S. residents are DACA-eligible.² Within the population of DACA-eligible residents, 94 percent are employed and bring an estimated \$21.2 billion dollars in spending power.³ Across the country, AILA attorneys have represented Dreamers as well as their families and the businesses that employ them in all sectors of the American economy.⁴ During the COVID-19 pandemic, their contributions and those of other people lacking immigration status were vital to the nation’s recovery.⁵ As we approach this year’s spring graduation ceremonies, many of the young people in the audiences hold much promise but also shoulder the burden of being undocumented or could soon age-out of legal status in the only country they have ever known.⁶ Indeed, 80 percent of the nearly 120,000 undocumented students who graduated high school in 2023 no longer qualify because of the DACA program’s timing requirements.⁷

Years of polling has shown that significant majorities of Americans support granting citizenship to Dreamers. A January 2024 UMass -Amherst/WCVB poll showed 68 percent of respondents support citizenship for Dreamers.⁸ Since the first introduction of the Dream Act in 2001 by Senators Durbin (D-IL) and Hatch (R-UT), many bills that protect Dreamers have been

introduced in Congress, most of them bipartisan.⁹ These bills provide permanent legal status and an opportunity to apply for citizenship to those who pass background checks and meet other eligibility requirements. At their core, these bills recognize that providing legal pathways to permanent status, even for the undocumented, is in line with America's history and values.

While protecting Dreamers is vital, Congress must reform the immigration system in its entirety. Managing the flow of people into the United States – whether for family, economic, and humanitarian purposes or at borders, airports or consulates abroad –requires an all-of-government solution. The system must be more efficient and orderly while guaranteeing fairness and ensuring compliance with the law. At the same time, the system must be able to match and even anticipate the future social and economic needs of businesses and states that want and need immigrants. AILA calls upon Congress and the President to enact laws and issue policies that update our legal immigration system. These include:

1. Significant investments to ensure the efficient, orderly, and fair processing of migrants arriving at the U.S. southern border, including targeted resources to combat cartels smuggling Fentanyl and other narcotics.
2. Reforms to the visa system and expansion of other legal pathways to meet the needs of American families and businesses coupled with robust funding for the agencies responsible for administering immigration benefits and processing visa applications.
3. Permanent legal status for people who are undocumented or who have lived for years in a temporary status.

Immigration is essential to the country's economic growth. By recognizing the tremendous strengths immigration brings to our nation, especially the promise of immigrant youth, Congress will ensure our collective prosperity. AILA calls on Congress to act now to protect undocumented youth and modernize the immigration system for a better future.

¹ American Immigration Council, "[Map the Impact: The DACA-Eligible Population](#)," last accessed May 6, 2024.

² Id.

³ Id.

⁴ American Immigration Lawyers Association, "[DACA: Failure is Not an Option!](#)," June 15, 2023; "[Helping DACA Recipients Renew](#)," March 7, 2018, and "[AILA Dream Defenders](#)," August 4, 2011.

⁵ Center for American Progress, "[The Demographic and Economic Impacts of DACA Recipients: Fall 2021 Edition](#)," November, 24, 2021 (estimating that 343,000 DACA recipients have been working on the frontlines of the coronavirus response in health care, education, and food services).

⁶ NBC News, "[Yale-Bound Valedictorian Comes Out as Undocumented in Emotional Speech](#)," June 9, 2016; NPR, "[Who belongs in America? An undocumented journalist tells his story](#)," November 24, 2023.

⁷ The Nation, "[Without Expanded DACA Protections, Undocumented Students Are Being Left Behind](#)," April 24, 2024.

⁸ WCVB News, "[Poll: Majority supports path to citizenship for Dreamers, migrants](#)," February 14, 2024;

⁹ 118th Congress: [H.R. 16 American Dream and Promise Act of 2023](#), 117th Congress: [S. 264 Dream Act of 2021](#), [H.R. 4331 America's CHILDREN Act of 2021](#), 115th Congress: [H.R. 496 the BRIDGE Act](#); See also, "[Former DHS Secretaries Write Letter to Congress in Favor of Dreamers](#)," January 3, 2018.

Franciscan Action Network Statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee on its [Hearing](#) – “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need To Protect Immigrant Youth

Franciscan Action Network (FAN), a national organization of Franciscan women and men, religious and secular, with members in every state, has partnered with DACA recipients for many years. Dreamers have attended our colleges and universities; Dreamers work with many Catholic and other faith-based organizations, and contribute to their communities. FAN urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to use this hearing to emphasize the urgent need for Congress to pass legislation such as the [Dream and Promise Act](#) (H.R. 16), which would create a path to citizenship for Dreamers – immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, and to seek further legislative solutions to provide stability and permanence for the [11 million](#) undocumented people living in the U.S. today.

Since 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided work authorization and relief from deportation to certain undocumented young people who arrived in the U.S. as children. Access to DACA has had a transformative impact on the approximately [800,000 people](#) who have been protected by it over the program's lifetime. However, as the DACA program approaches its twelfth anniversary, DACA recipients face ongoing precarity, living always under a cloud of insecurity. Moreover, hundreds of thousands of Dreamers are ineligible for its protections.

In recent years, DACA has faced repeated legal challenges that threaten the stability and security of the [530,000 people](#) currently protected by DACA and their communities. A federal court decision barring the government from [processing new applications](#) for relief under DACA has left an estimated 400,000 DACA-eligible individuals [unable to access protections](#). Meanwhile, [over 600,000](#) undocumented school-age children are not eligible for protection because they arrived in the U.S. too recently.

FAN commends efforts by the Biden administration to [strengthen DACA](#) and [improve access](#) to core services like healthcare for DACA recipients. But DACA recipients and other Dreamers continue to face an ongoing cycle of uncertainty and fear as they build their lives in US communities. The Gospel of Jesus and our Franciscan values urge us to honor the God-given dignity of all people by working to promote justice and equitable access to security, opportunity, health, and freedom to pursue dreams and promote the common good. It is incumbent upon Congress to act now to protect Dreamers and all 11 million people in communities across our country who have for too long lived under threat of detention and deportation. We urge passage of legislation like the Dream and Promise Act.

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: 5/8 SJC Dreamer Hearing Written Statement

As a DACA recipient and small business owner, I feel compelled to share my insights and perspectives on the critical issue concerning Dreamers discussed during yesterday's hearing:

Dreamers represent a group of highly-motivated individuals aspiring to honor the hard work and sacrifices of their parents who came to the US in search of a better life. Dreamers epitomize the essence of American identity, reflecting its ideals and spirit in every aspect of their lives, save for the absence of a document that formally recognizes their belonging. Dreamers aim to be part of the American dream and to contribute to the growth, diversity, and vitality that make it such a vibrant nation. Dreamers are nurses, police officers, teachers, and small business owners, embodying the very fabric of their communities and enriching American society with their diverse talents and contributions.

Still, Dreamers are caught in a legal limbo, feeling abandoned by the country they now call home and leveraged as political football in broader immigration debates. They're taught about freedom, yet have to live with the fear of being deported to a place they hardly remember or even relate to anymore. They're stuck in a never-ending cycle, unable to have a say in the unjust immigration laws that govern their lives.

There are existing pathways which allow Dreamers to legally adjust their status. However, the barrier of the "10-year unlawful presence ground of inadmissibility" makes it impossible for most Dreamers to do so. Many inadvertently trigger this inadmissibility due to circumstances beyond their control, leaving them with no recourse or agency in the matter. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote, "Sometimes a law is just on its face and unjust in its application." Even a modification surrounding accrued unlawful presence for Dreamers could pave a pathway forward.

I hope my testimony underscores the urgent need to protect Dreamers, who embody the American dream and contribute significantly to our society. The unjust barriers we face call for careful reconsideration of our country's immigration laws.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Gabriel Nava



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
 Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
 711 Hart Senate Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510
Submitted via email

Re: 5/8 SJC Dreamer Hearing Written Statement

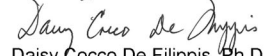
Dear Chair Durbin:

I write to you as President of Hostos Community College, part of the City University of New York (CUNY), in support the Judiciary Committee's efforts to develop and pass legislation that would protect Dreamers. Hostos is a Hispanic Serving Institution in a heavily Hispanic part of the South Bronx in New York City.

Dreamers are among Hostos students, people who have lived in New York City nearly all of their lives. These are young people who know nothing other than life in the United States and want nothing more than to remain here and contribute to society. For nearly 12 years, DACA protections have made it possible for these young people to hold work permits, qualify for health insurance, afford college and pursue the types of dreams that come with higher education. That is why I am very concerned that DACA is under attack by federal judges who might strike it down, leading to a real possibility that countless Dreamers in New York City and across the nation would lose these protections as well as protection from deportation.

The DACA program is an unqualified success that has helped an untold number of people in the South Bronx and New York City since its inception. DACA deserves to be continued, and I ask the Judiciary Committee and its members to do everything they can to protect it and the Dreamers who want nothing more than to continue their lives in the United States and to be productive members of our society.

Sincerely,


 Daisy Cocco De Filippis, Ph.D.
 President



Statement for the Record of

Daishi Miguel-Tanaka

Senior Manager Federal Advocacy and DACA Recipient

The Immigration Hub For a Hearing from the Committee on the Judiciary,

“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Room 106 Washington, D.C. 20002



Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham, on behalf of the [Immigration Hub](#), a national organization dedicated to advancing fair and just immigration policies through strategic leadership, innovative communications strategies, legislative advocacy, and collaborative partnerships, we thank the Senate Judiciary Committee for holding this vital hearing. We especially want to thank Chairman Durbin for his tireless efforts to urge Congress to protect Dreamers like myself who are American in all ways but on paper. The Immigration Hub strongly supports the S. 365, Dream Act of 2023, led by Sens. Durbin and Graham.

I am a proud recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the Senior Manager of Federal Advocacy at the Immigration Hub where I lead our advocacy efforts to build national consensus in support of immigration reform through partnerships and educating congressional offices on the Hill. Although I was born in Japan, I went to elementary, middle, and high school in Southern California. I received DACA during the 10th grade and it was my saving grace to work and provide for my undocumented family.

Having protections under the DACA program afforded me the peace of mind to travel out of state, and I graduated from Harvard University in 2019. As a contributing member of our labor force since, I have paid thousands of dollars in taxes each year, the same as many Americans. Due to Congressional failure to provide a path to a work permit or green card for Dreamers, the futures of hundreds of thousands of doctors, teachers, and students who are actively contributing to American prosperity and economic growth are threatened. Above all, I fear that the removal of the protections that have allowed me to live the American Dream and contribute to our country will succeed at revoking the peace of mind to provide for myself, my family, and my community— a peace of mind that I belong in the country that I call home.

Next month will mark the 12th anniversary of the DACA program, a 2012 Obama-era initiative that extended work authorization and relief from deportation for young people brought to the U.S. as children. The widely popular program continues to face uncertainty as the country awaits yet another court decision on its legality. U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen [previously](#) declared the program illegal in 2021 and he [ruled](#) the Biden Administration's DACA regulation illegal in 2023. Though the decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients while an appeal is pending, we live in fear that the next court decision at the 5th Circuit will upend our lives.



Since its inception, the DACA program has provided the opportunity for over 830,000 Dreamers like myself to study, work, and contribute to the social and economic fabric of America without fear of deportation. DACA protections have allowed Dreamers to build lives and start families in the U.S., without regard to where they were born, and their hard work has proven essential to the U.S. economy—contributing [billions](#) of dollars annually and even creating new [demand](#) for jobs for U.S. citizens. Although the program originally benefited many immigrant youth, most of them are now adults who have started businesses and have children in the U.S. More Dreamers are [homeowners](#) than ever before.

This year marks twelve years without permanent protections in place for 830,000 Dreamers like me. Unfortunately, DACA's eligibility requirements have not been updated since the policy was announced, so about [2 million additional Dreamers](#) currently living in the U.S. are not protected by the program that has protected me. Our immigrant community deserves better, and Americans are noticing.

Americans are increasingly in support of sensible immigration reform. [82%](#) of voters support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for many years, paid taxes, and passed a background check.

Solutions for Dreamers were notably excluded in the [bipartisan border security package](#) that Democrats and Republicans negotiated earlier this year. I implore Congressional leaders to find a way forward to end the legal limbo that has lasted over a decade and provide a way forward for our nation's Dreamers.

At a time when labor supply is dwindling, harmful misinformation continues to distort the overwhelmingly positive impact Dreamers like myself have had on our country and economy. Dreamers already give so much to this country; it is time for our leaders to recognize us as the Americans we truly are and open pathways to citizenship so we can keep contributing to the country we call home.

The Immigration Hub stands ready to work across the aisle to reach sensible reforms that put Dreamers on a pathway to citizenship. Please contact me at daishi@theimmigrationhub.org for further information and how we can best support the committee.



1201 16th St. N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

May 8, 2024

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the students they serve, we would like to submit the following comments in connection with today's hearing, "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Dreamers and Pass the Dream Act."

Most Dreamers—undocumented youth brought to the United States as children—have lived here for decades and are now adults. Three-fourths of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients have a child, sibling, spouse, or parent who is a U.S. citizen. They are integral parts of their communities, but are not treated that way.

NEA supports the Dream Act of 2023 (S. 365), the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023 (H.R. 16), and similar legislation that acknowledges and addresses these realities. Specifically:

- We support **inclusive legislation** that encompasses Dreamers, DACA recipients, and people granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for humanitarian reasons—a permanent solution for as many as possible—and oppose any effort to reduce or limit the number of individuals who could benefit.
- We support **multiple pathways to citizenship** and oppose any effort to restrict or impose additional burdens on immigrants.
- We support protecting the **due process rights** of every individual and oppose infringing on those rights in any way.
- We support remaining true to **America's values and history** as a nation of immigrants and oppose taking punitive or hurtful actions against immigrants.

We applaud President Biden's recent decision to expand health coverage for DACA recipients and urge the administration to take further action to stabilize families with undocumented immigrants—for example, through access to work permits and temporary status.

At the same time, NEA opposes demonizing immigrants through legislation that would severely restrict—in effect, shut down—the U.S. asylum system. The immigration process is in desperate need of attention, but the answer is NOT the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 2) or similar legislation.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and stand ready to help pass the Dream Act or similar legislation to provide stability for immigrant students, educators, and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association



May 7, 2024

United States Senate
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: 5/8 SJC Dreamer Hearing Written Statement

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

As president of Arizona State University, I will be spending this week deeply immersed in Spring graduation ceremonies. For that reason, I am unable to testify in person regarding DACA's positive impact and the success that ASU Dreamers with and without DACA status have achieved. But commencement also means that I will witness that impact and that success first-hand: The ASU class of 2024 includes 38 graduating DACA and Dreamer students – 27 undergraduates and 11 graduate students.

Those numbers may seem small but given the challenges that these students have and will continue to face, it is an impressive accomplishment.

Our country's current focus on admittedly important border issues obscures the importance of ensuring that DACA recipients and other Dreamers get a college education. Two weeks ago, one of our Dreamers, Maria Leon, addressed that in an opinion piece for the Arizona Republic. Her [column](#) bore this headline: "*I'm a DACA recipient in college. Why it's important to share stories like mine.*" Her answer:

"As more students fill classrooms and schools, more students can share their dreams and touch hearts with our stories, so that people know we belong in the United States, our country, and the opportunities it has to offer."

Maria will graduate next year with a degree in nursing. She plans on then getting an MD, which will help alleviate the severe doctor shortage that Arizona and many other parts of the country are experiencing.

In becoming a physician, Maria will be following in the footsteps of another ASU graduate, Dalia Larios. Dalia graduated summa cum laude from ASU in 2012 with a degree in Biological Sciences and, as she put it, "a passion for medicine." Dalia was the first DACA recipient to be admitted to Harvard Medical School and she graduated in 2019, with honors. A year later she was working in intensive care units treating COVID-19 patients. See [Larios Testimony](#) before the Senate Judiciary Committee – Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety.

In her 2022 testimony, Dalia talked about "the specter" of her undocumented status that "has shadowed every major transition" of her life. She noted that "the threat of deportation is always present," given the possible elimination of DACA. That is why I am so very pleased to share the great news that just a few weeks ago Dalia's concerns about the possibility of being separated from her family and her patients were alleviated when she successfully obtained an H-1B visa. After Dr. Larios finishes her current radiation oncology residency at Mass General Hospital in Boston, she will return to Arizona to work at Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Dalia concluded her Senate testimony by underscoring what DACA has meant to her and to this country:

"However imperfect, DACA exemplifies the power of higher education and meaningful community integration. It showcases that the desire to succeed is not sufficient if structural and systemic changes are not implemented to provide inclusion. I could not have become a doctor without the protections of DACA."

Office of the President

PO Box 877705, Tempe AZ 85287-7705 | 300 E University Dr., Tempe AZ 85281
p: 480-965-8972 f: 480-965-0865 president.asu.edu

It is unfortunate that because of recent court decisions “the protections of DACA” extend to fewer and fewer college students. Thus, the threat of deportation weighs even more heavily on the thousands of college students who are DACA eligible but unable to apply because of current court rulings. The pride and joy that Dreamers in ASU’s class of 2024 rightfully will experience this week is tempered by the uncertain future that faces those who like [Maria Valeria Garcia](#) and [Angel Palazuelos](#) just barely missed out on obtaining DACA status.

Maria is a double major in Political Science and Transborder Studies. She will obtain a master’s degree next year through ASU’s 4+1 program. Angel Palazuelos is graduating with a degree in biomedical engineering. Their future is uncertain because they do not have the work permit given to those who have DACA status.

Allowing new applications for DACA status would help Maria and Angel. But, as Dalia’s case illustrates, it is not enough. DACA enabled her to become a doctor, but, until a month ago, her continued presence in this country was tenuous. Moreover, DACA was never intended to be a long-term solution and its fragility has become all too obvious. That is why I have been a longstanding advocate for passage of a Dream Act. It will help ASU honor its “mission to provide a quality education to Arizona’s college bound students – [all of them](#).”

As I have said in the past, the decision to support Dreamers “is rather easy at the end of the day: Care for children, show them love and respect, prepare them for the future and help them start their lives. If we can do that, then we will have done our part for tomorrow to be a better day.” See [Message Regarding DACA](#) (9/3/2017). Dalia Larios is proof positive of the dividends that a commitment to Dreamers pays. As she said in an e-mail sent just a few days ago:

“ASU certainly changed my life. At a time when many universities were not accepting undocumented students, ASU took me under its wings, allowed me to receive a college education, and filled me with a sense of possibility in the world.”

I recognize, however, that for many it is not self-evident that we all benefit from the education of our Dreamers. The Annual Surveys of their scholars and alumni conducted by TheDream.US¹ as well as the Annual Survey of DACA Recipients conducted by United We Dream, the National Immigration Law Center, and the Center for American Progress more than make the case. The ninth such survey concluded in January of this year. Conducted by Tom K. Wong of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center at the University of California, San Diego, it confirms the benefits of DACA to the recipients and to the entire country.

ASU’s Office of the University Economist has reviewed that work and has also conducted a literature review of the economic and fiscal effects of immigration. While different sectors of the economy are impacted differently, the Director of the L. Seidman Research Institute and the Office of the University Economist, Dr. Dennis Hoffman, has provided me with this summary of the issues pertinent to the DACA question. Some of the following observations are specific to Hispanics, particularly from Mexico, because they have been the focus of more research and are the largest component of DACA eligible students. But I believe the conclusions are generally applicable to the entire Dreamer population, which at ASU includes Dreamers from South America² and Dreamers who are not Hispanic.

- The 2023 survey of DACA recipients shows that nearly 19 out of every 20 respondents (94.1 percent) are currently employed. This represents a significant jump over the past years, even when compared with pre-pandemic levels; the [2019 survey showed](#) that 89.2 percent of respondents were employed.

¹ ASU is a Partner College of TheDream.US, which has provided 180 scholarships to ASU Dreamers since 2015. For Fall 2023 ASU had 65 TheDream.US scholars.

² One of our Dreamer alums, Germán Cadenas, came to the U.S. from Venezuela at the age of 15. He has two bachelor’s degrees from ASU and a Ph.D. in counseling psychology, also from ASU. See [ASU DREAMzone](#). He is now an Associate Professor at [Rutgers](#).

- Hispanics owned 4.8 million businesses, with \$636.2 billion in receipts according to reports from the US Census.
- BLS data reveal that the Labor Force Participation Rate among Hispanics is at or above other groups and a report that reveals data on country of origin suggests that immigrants from Mexico – the largest DACA source country – have among the highest rates of workforce participation. It is quite striking that these immigrants have found their way to, and remain in, the labor force despite the impediments in their way. This would suggest that the share of labor force contributors among the DACA cohort³ might even be larger if they didn't have to face the legal barriers to work that prevail today.
- Demographers have noted that, based on recent trends, the aging of the US population will significantly decrease the number of working age persons per retiree. And, unless birth rates suddenly reverse current trends, this will create challenges as few workers will be employed in the face of large numbers of senior entitlement recipients. There is a considerable volume of literature that illustrates the need to attract immigrants to buffer these demographic headwinds. But the DACA recipients are already in the US. We can accomplish similar goals by making sure they are allowed access to work through permanent legal pathways.
- The facts suggest that DACA recipients have great potential for the US economy provided that they are afforded both legal work status and opportunities to acquire more education and skills.
- Will they generate a fiscal surplus? Interestingly much of the public costs of educating DACA recipients have already been incurred. What remains is to eliminate barriers that might prevent these young people from generating economic benefits to offset these costs. The concept of Fiscal surplus seems to be designed to measure the net contributions of a new immigrant. DACAs are here and all that is inhibiting them from earning higher wages and generating positive fiscal outcomes are legal headwinds and lack of opportunities to contribute.
- It is also important to note that providing legal protections to DACA recipients makes them eligible for entitlement programs in the US. Statistics suggest that higher income entitlement recipients generally pay more for entitlements (e.g. Medicare) over their lifetimes than do low-income recipients. And the rate structure is set up so that higher income entitlement recipients often subsidize lower income worker entitlement benefits. The statistical arithmetic of entitlement financing – especially Medicare – shows that adding purely low-income recipients to the pool will place additional pressures on the system. Therefore, it is important to provide education opportunities to DACA recipients that will allow them to become more productive members of the labor force, earn higher wages and salaries, and put them in a position to pay for greater shares of the entitlements they ultimately will consume.
- In the end, what is the primary economic case for the DACA cohort? Data suggest that the Dreamer cohort come from families that have a strong work ethic, that participate in the labor force in high numbers and who have started large numbers of businesses. This suggests that creating permanent pathways to grant legal work status will enable these young people to contribute in many ways to the US economy. Their biggest advantage as potential contributors is age and their demonstrated willingness to work. US universities can contribute by providing avenues for Dreamers to acquire education and skills that will allow them to realize their potential. And as more education and skills are acquired by the cohort, any concerns over their net fiscal burden can evaporate.

One of the findings in a February 2024 report by the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship (NACIE), of which I am a member, is consistent with Dr. Hoffman's conclusions. While not focused on Dreamers, the report, which was presented to Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, included a section on "Developing Entrepreneurial Talent" and a finding that is particularly relevant to the subject before your committee:

³ Unless otherwise specified, DACA as used in this summary includes Dreamers who are DACA eligible.

Finding 2: Alongside domestic talent development, there is an opportunity to develop America's talent pipeline with help from overseas. Over half of U.S. startup companies valued at greater than \$1 billion were started by immigrants with two-thirds of all "unicorns" or U.S. billion dollar valued companies founded or co-founded by immigrants or the children of immigrants. Twenty five percent of these company founders came to America as international students. Immigrants are more likely to start companies than others even when lacking social structure or infrastructure support. To maintain this incredible success in leveraging global talent, immigrant entrepreneurs who want to launch their high growth startups in America need rapid access to work visas, permanent residency, and immigration policy stability and certainty to grow and scale their workforces and businesses.

The importance of a college education, the ability to work and a stable immigration policy are all reasons to renew the push for a Dream Act.

The continued success of ASU's undocumented graduates is also consistent with Dr. Hoffman's conclusions and the NACIE finding. Dr. Larios is but one example. ASU's [DREAMzone](#) documents other alumni [success stories](#). You will be equally impressed with Reyna Montoya, a Forbes: 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneur. You'll find more information about her on the website of [Aliento](#), the organization Reyna founded and heads. Aliento's stated mission is to serve "undocumented, DACA, and mixed immigration status families to transform trauma into hope and action." The most recent example of transforming trauma into hope and action is the campaign that Reyna and Aliento led for the passage of Proposition 308, which now gives eligible Arizona High School graduates in-state tuition regardless of immigration status.

Another story highlighted on the DREAMzone page is that of Oscar Vasquez. His story is well known to the general public as he was a member of the high school robotics team that bested MIT and that became the subject of a documentary and a Hollywood movie. Thanks to your intervention, Senator Durbin, Oscar was able to obtain permanent residency and he later served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Oscar did not have the benefit of DACA, but he [testified](#) before this committee in 2017 about the benefits of becoming a permanent resident, which is why the Dream Act is needed now more than ever.

I am hopeful that your committee will chart a path to a Dream Act. The importance of doing so cannot be understated. To quote Dr. Larios one more time,

"What happens with this immigration issue will define who we are as a country."

See "I Am A Future Doctor. And I am Also An Undocumented American" ([2018 WBUR video](#)).

Again, I deeply regret that I cannot be in Washington to say more about the young people whom I've have always called our "special international students." But I remain fully committed to helping them obtain the college education they deserve and that our country's continued greatness requires that they have. Please let me know if I can be of further help to you in that endeavor.

Sincerely,



Michael M. Crow
President, Arizona State University

May 8, 2024: Senate Judiciary Committee

Written testimony from the American Business Immigration Coalition

Contact: press@americanbic.biz

To the distinguished members of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee,

The American Business Immigration Coalition (ABIC) stands with Judiciary Committee Chairman, Senator Durbin in affirming the great need to protect and create a path to citizenship for our nation's undocumented immigrant youth with and without DACA, also known as the "Dreamers".

With nearly 3 million open jobs across every sector, legal status for our dreamers is not only the right thing to do but is economically crucial for our nation's global competitiveness. Congressional gridlock on immigration is beyond frustrating - it has held back the potential of our most talented workforce and undermined our national growth and security. We urge every member of the Senate Judiciary Committee to vote yes.

The American Business Immigration Coalition is a bipartisan coalition of over 1,400 diverse businesses and business associations to provide a strong and effective voice that seeks sensible immigration reform that boosts our economy, creates jobs, eases the labor shortage, and supports families. ABIC is active in key states and communities nationwide, engaging CEOs, activists, advocates, faith, business leaders, and elected officials.

The DACA program has undoubtedly presented a considerable benefit to the economy and business leaders in various key sectors. Since 2012, DACA recipients have contributed over \$108 billion to the U.S. economy and \$33 billion in combined tax contributions. They are doctors, lawyers, nurses, and engineers. DACA's success has unleashed the economic potential of over 800,000 individuals since the program's inception, allowing them to contribute to our economy, buy homes, access healthcare, build businesses, and bring their talents to the industry sectors where they are most needed. Three-quarters of DACA recipients who participate in the workforce—343,000 people—are essential workers. Of these, 34,000 provide healthcare services, and 11,000 work tirelessly to keep our hospital and clinic facilities up and running. As our nation faces a teacher shortage, 20,000 DACA recipients are working with children in classrooms across the country. About 100,000 DACA recipients work in the nation's food supply chain.

Juan Carlos Cerda, ABIC's Texas State Director is a DACA recipient. Juan Carlos was 7 years old when his mother brought him to Texas from Mexico. He grew up in Dallas-Fort Worth, graduated from Grand Prairie High School as their Valedictorian, and won a private scholarship to Yale University, where he majored in history. DACA allowed him to work and pay his way through college, graduate, and serve our nation as a public school teacher. But when his DACA

application renewal was delayed six months due to a computer glitch, he was forced to resign from his teaching job for six months until his application was finally processed. Enrique Sanchez, ABIC's Intermountain Director is a DACA recipient and came to this country when he was 2 years old. Growing up in Park City Utah, Enrique dreamed of becoming a police officer but could not due to his immigration status. Working with Park City's police chief and other Utah law enforcement officials, Enrique attempted to pass a state bill to allow dreamers like him to become police officers, serve and protect his community. Law enforcement, like all industries, is facing acute labor shortages.

Employers across the country recognize the talents and perspectives immigrants bring to their companies. Dreamers are driven and resilient employees and leaders in their fields despite the obstacles to pursuing higher education and training. DACA, while worthy of praise remains without a clear pathway to citizenship for those with the status, and excludes nearly 2 million undocumented immigrants from the program. More than 427,000 undocumented students are currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions, though less than half are DACA-eligible. Every year, nearly 100,000 undocumented students graduate from U.S. high schools, but only one-quarter are DACA-eligible. The number of DACA-eligible individuals continues to decrease, despite the overwhelming data indicating its transformative impact for both Dreamers and the rest of the country.

The American Business Immigration Coalition thanks Senator Durbin for his tireless efforts to fight for opportunities and dignity for the nation's valuable immigrant contributors, and urge every member of the Judiciary Committee to vote yes.

Most Sincerely,

Eddy Almonord, National Organizer, American Business Immigration Coalition
Rebecca Shi, Executive Director, American Business Immigration Coalition

American Business Immigration Coalition Board Members

Bob Worsley, Chair and CEO, NZ Legacy, LLC; ZenniHome, LLC, Board Co-Chairman, Salt Lake City Utah
Al Cardenas, Vital Salud CEO, Board Co-Chairman, Miami Florida
Samuel "Sam" C. Scott III, Chairman and CEO (retired), Corn Products International, Longboat Key Florida
Joshua "Josh" Hoyt, Founding Executive Director, Board Secretary, Chicago Illinois
Carole Segal, Cofounder, Crate and Barrel, Winnetka, Illinois
Woody Hunt, Hunt Companies Chairman and CEO, Board Treasurer, El Paso Texas
William C. Kunkler, III, Executive Vice President, CC Industries, Chicago, Illinois

Donald “Don” Graham, Chairman, Graham Holdings, Washington DC
 Andrew Tisch, Co-Chairman, Loews Corporation, New York, New York
 Craig Duchossis, Executive Chair, The Duchossois Group, Miami Florida
 David Barber, President and CEO (retired), Barber Foods, Maine
 Martin Eakes, CEO, Self Help/Center for Responsible Learning, North Carolina
 Mike Kaplan, President and CEO (retired), Aspen Skiing Company, Aspen Colorado
 Bill Lucia, Chairman and CEO (retired), HMS, Florida
 Raul Raymundo, CEO, The Resurrection Project, Chicago Illinois
 Jorge Palacio, Senior Vice President, Global Manufacturing Operations, Chicago Illinois
 Mike Fernandez, Co-Founder, ABIC; Chairman and CEO, MBF Healthcare Partners, Miami
 Florida
 John Graham, Chairman and CEO Sunbelt Holdings, Phoenix Arizona

Written Testimony

- American Immigration Lawyers Association
- Arizona State University, President Michael Crow
- Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
- Church World Service
- Disciples Home Missions
- Franciscan Action Network
- Immigration Hub
- Niskanen Center (submitting an article as their statement for the record; More DACA Recipients Are Homeowners Than Ever Before <https://www.niskanencenter.org/more-daca-recipients-are-homeowners-than-ever-before/>)
- Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
- TheDream.US
- World Relief National Evangelical Immigration Table



May 8, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write today to express our appreciation to the Committee for continuing to highlight the important contributions that Dreamers make to America, and reinforce Apple's ongoing support for Dreamers and their significant impact on companies like ours. Apple's success stems from its people. We are proud to have nearly 450 DACA recipients employed at Apple. We continue to be concerned about the prospect of losing our DACA colleagues from our company and society. At Apple, Dreamers are members of our collective family. Their creativity and passion have made us a stronger and more innovative American company.

We have long encouraged Congress to take action to make protections for Dreamers permanent. These individuals deserve our respect as equals, and Congress needs to find a solution rooted in American values. Any legislation should provide a sensible pathway to citizenship. As Tim Cook has said, "I will fight until my toes point up on the subject because I think that it is so core to who we are as a people that we not turn our back on people that came into the country as kids, they were brought here well before they could make a decision on their own. These people are the core of what an American is."

Apple
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

T 408 996-1010
F 408 996-0275



Apple would not be where we are today without Dreamers, who have earned the right to continue their extraordinary contributions to our company and our society. Finding a solution for the Dreamers has for years enjoyed the overwhelming support of the American public, and that support runs across party lines. Apple stands ready to assist with any efforts to ensure that Dreamers no longer live in limbo and will continue to advocate for policies that support DACA recipients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy Powderly", is located below the word "Sincerely,".

Timothy Powderly
Senior Director, Government Affairs, Americas
Apple

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
 OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

BAKERSFIELD

CHANNEL ISLANDS May 7, 2024

CHICO

DOMINGUEZ HILLS

Hon. Richard Durbin
 Chairman
 Senate Committee on the Judiciary
 224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
 Washington, D.C. 20510

EAST BAY

FRESNO

FULLERTON

HUMBOLDT

LONG BEACH

LOS ANGELES

MARITIME ACADEMY

MONTEREY BAY

NORTHridge

POMONA

SACRAMENTO

SAN BERNARDINO

SAN DIEGO

SAN FRANCISCO

SAN JOSÉ

SAN LUIS OBISPO

SAN MARCOS

SONOMA

STANISLAUS

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the California State University (CSU), I want to thank you for your interest in the nation's Dreamers, and for organizing this Wednesday's hearing regarding their plight. As the nation's largest and most diverse public four-year university system and its greatest engine of social mobility, the CSU is the proud home to approximately 10,000 Dreamer students and 500 employees with DACA status, each of whom contributes to the vitality and success of our institution each and every day. Behind these numbers are individuals – people who we regard as family and an essential part of the CSU community. We urge you and Congress to find a bipartisan pathway to allow them to stay in this country – in most cases the only home they have ever known – to achieve citizenship, and to gain access to federal financial aid so that they can fully contribute to our economy and our communities.

Dreamers are essential to our nation's workforce, but without Congressional action to provide them with the stability, support and agency to pursue their studies and employment, our economy will suffer long-term. DACA-recipient households contribute \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes annually. All totaled, more than 400,000 undocumented students are pursuing higher education across our nation, launching careers, and enriching their industries and communities. America can only truly benefit from their boundless talents by providing them with permanent solutions.

401 GOLDEN SHORE • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802-4210 • (562) 951-4700 • Fax (562) 951-4986

Hon. Richard Durbin and Hon. Lindsey Graham
May 7, 2024
Page Two

Again, as we anticipate this week's hearing, the CSU urges Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that provides a pathway to permanent residency, U.S. citizenship, and access to federal financial aid for Dreamers. As a first step, we encourage Congress to pass the DREAM Act (S.365) or similar legislation.

We thank you for your attention and continued partnership in advancing opportunity for the CSU's students, and we stand ready to serve as a resource in this vitally important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mildred Garcia".

Mildred Garcia, Ed.D.

Chancellor

cc: Senator Laphonza Butler
Senator Alex Padilla
Wenda Fong, Chair, Board of Trustees
Greg Saks, Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Communications
George Conant, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-1304

Dear Senator Durbin:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the students they serve, we would like to submit the following comments in connection with today's hearing, "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Dreamers and Pass the Dream Act."

Most Dreamers—undocumented youth brought to the United States as children—have lived here for decades and are now adults. Three-fourths of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients have a child, sibling, spouse, or parent who is a U.S. citizen. They are integral parts of their communities, but are not treated that way.

NEA supports the Dream Act of 2023 (S. 365), the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023 (H.R. 16), and similar legislation that acknowledges and addresses these realities. Specifically:

- We support **inclusive legislation** that encompasses Dreamers, DACA recipients, and people granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for humanitarian reasons—a permanent solution for as many as possible—and oppose any effort to reduce or limit the number of individuals who could benefit.?
- We support **multiple pathways to citizenship** and oppose any effort to restrict or impose additional burdens on immigrants.?
- We support protecting the **due process rights** of every individual and oppose infringing on those rights in any way.?
- We support remaining true to **America's values and history** as a nation of immigrants and oppose taking punitive or hurtful actions against immigrants.

We applaud President Biden's recent decision to expand health coverage for DACA recipients and urge the administration to take further action to stabilize families with undocumented immigrants—for example, through access to work permits and temporary status.

At the same time, NEA opposes demonizing immigrants through legislation that would severely restrict—in effect, shut down—the U.S. asylum system. The immigration process is in desperate need of attention, but the answer is NOT the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 2) or similar legislation.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and stand ready to help pass the Dream Act or similar legislation to provide stability for immigrant students, educators, and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association



May 8, 2024

Statement of the National Immigration Law Center

U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth

May 8, 2024

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

The National Immigration Law Center (NILC) extends gratitude to the Ranking Member and the Committee for today's hearing, "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth." NILC appreciates the opportunity to submit a written statement for the record. Established in 1979, NILC is the leading advocacy organization in the U.S. dedicated to defending and advancing the rights and opportunities of low-income immigrants and their families. We believe that all people should have the opportunity to achieve their full human potential – regardless of their race, gender, immigration, or economic status. Over the past several decades, NILC has won landmark legal decisions protecting fundamental human and civil rights and advocated for policies that reinforce our nation's values of equality and justice for all. One such case is *Batalla Vidal, et al. v. Nielsen, et al.*, where we challenged the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We also have a rich history of advocating and supporting legislation, such as the Dream Act and the American Dream and Promise Act, which would put immigrant youth on a pathway to citizenship and provide them with the stability and ability to more fully thrive in the U.S.

For far too long, young immigrants who call this country home have gone without a pathway to citizenship. For over 800,000 individuals since 2012, DACA was the lifeline they needed to be able to work and live without fear of deportation. Our annual survey of DACA recipients, conducted with UC San Diego Professor Tom Wong, United We Dream, and the Center for American Progress (CAP) has found that DACA has significantly improved the lives of DACA recipients and their families. They have gained more financial stability and independence as a result of the earnings that DACA has made

accessible¹. 81.9% of respondents reported that their increased earnings have “helped [them] become financially independent.” 78.9% reported that their increased earnings have “helped [their] family financially.” 65% of respondents currently in school said that because of DACA, “[they] pursued educational opportunities that [they] previously could not.” These, and many other direct impacts of DACA, have changed the lives of DACA recipients forever. Unfortunately, DACA is outdated, ultimately still falls short of providing the permanent protections immigrant youth need, and politically motivated attacks in the court have made many otherwise DACA eligible individuals unable to apply and receive its protections. Immigrant communities urgently need Congress to act and pass legislation that puts all immigrant youth on a pathway to citizenship.

Passing legislation that puts immigrant youth on a pathway to citizenship would change the lives of those directly affected and their families in many ways, including their overall health. NILC celebrates that the recent rule published by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has now made DACA recipients eligible for the Affordable Care Act (ACA). HHS estimates that approximately 100,000 DACA recipients will now qualify for healthcare due to this rule.² Expanding health care coverage is always good policy. We know that people with health coverage are more likely to receive preventive care, assistance with management of chronic conditions and timely diagnosis.³ Creating a pathway for DACA recipients and immigrant youth to become legal permanent residents and eventually U.S. citizens would eliminate many barriers immigrants currently face in obtaining medical care.

Passing legislation, like the Dream Act or American Dream and Promise Act, would not only benefit the millions of qualifying immigrant youth, but it would significantly and positively impact the United States economy. DACA alone has shown the potential of what broader legislation could do in the lives of immigrant youth and our communities. Economic models on the potential impact of the American Dream and Promise Act show that its passage could increase wages for all workers in the U.S., leading to higher tax contributions and productivity gains across the nation's economy. Additionally, it is estimated that a

¹ 2023 Survey of DACA Recipients Highlights Economic Advancement, Continued Uncertainty Amid Legal Limbo (Center for American Progress, March 23, 2024), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/2023-survey-of-daca-recipients-highlights-economic-advancement-continued-uncertainty-amid-legal-limbo/>

² Final rule. Clarifying the Eligibility of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Recipients and Certain Other Noncitizens for a Qualified Health Plan through an Exchange, Advance Payments of the Premium Tax Credit, Cost-Sharing Reductions, and a Basic Health Program, 89 FR 39392, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2024/05/08/2024-09661/clarifying-the-eligibility-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca-recipients-and-certain>

³ Report: The Importance of Health Coverage (American Hospital Association, October 2019), <https://www.aha.org/guidesreports/report-importance-health-coverage>.

pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth would lead to nearly \$800 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) growth for the United States over a decade.⁴ The positive economic impacts of legislation for immigrant youth would be felt in all our communities.

We urge this Committee and all Members of Congress to urgently pass legislation that provides permanent protections to all immigrant youth across the nation who call this country home. It is long overdue and clear and positive step forward for immigrant communities and our national as a whole.

⁴ Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth, (Center for American Progress, June 14, 2021), <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/citizenship-undocumented-immigrants-boost-u-s-economic-growth/>

**FROM THE DESK OF PRESIDENT RHETT BROWN**

Senators,

I want to urge you to prioritize protections for the more than 20,000 Dreamers who call North Carolina home. Many of them are waiting for the opportunity to become DACA recipients, having lived in the United States most of their lives and knowing little to nothing about their birth country. Wingate University is the only school in NC and SC invited to partner with TheDream.US which provides college scholarships for undocumented students. These are bright individuals, grateful for the opportunity to transform their lives in meaningful ways. Students tell us becoming an American citizen would be validation of everything they've worked so hard for. Our students become difference-makers in their communities as teachers, pastors and business professionals. Many of them, now well into their thirties, have built stable homes with families who depend on their ability to work. Dreamers have been included in immigration negotiations in the past and as someone who knows their success stories well, we'd like to see Dreamers no longer be caught in limbo. Your role in this matter is crucial and I appreciate your attention to it.

Rhett Brown

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Rhett Brown'.

President
Wingate University



Statement for the Record

Iliana G. Perez, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Immigrants Rising

For a Hearing of the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary

Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth
May 8, 2024

I am pleased to submit this statement for the record on behalf of Immigrants Rising. For over 15 years, Immigrants Rising has been proud to provide resources, training and financial support to undocumented students and entrepreneurs and advocate for greater access to education and capital on their behalf in California and nationally. Immigrants Rising's higher education and career resources and entrepreneurship learning hub have helped to build a foundation for undocumented young people to unleash their potential and contribute to their families, communities, states and cities, and the country. Importantly, Immigrants Rising respectfully urges Congress to ensure relief for undocumented young people is not arbitrarily limited by encounters with the criminal justice system.

Americans overwhelmingly support permanent relief for undocumented young people.¹ We are encouraged by Chair Durbin and Ranking Member Graham's reintroduction of the Dream Act and related legislation in the House of Representatives in the 118th Congress.² Legislative relief is needed now with litigation having already prevented the approval of new applications for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") and threatening the viability of its protections for existing recipients.³ Immigrants Rising was proud to support the filing of an amicus brief in support of DACA as the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit considers Judge Hanen's most recent ruling.⁴

¹ Michelle Hackman & Aaron Zitner, *Americans Want the Immigration Bill Congress Won't Pass*, *WSJ Poll Shows*, Wall St. J. (Mar. 7, 2024), www.wsj.com/politics/policy/americans-want-the-immigration-bill-congress-wont-pass-wsj-poll-shows-227b9bb8.

² Dream Act of 2023, S. 365, 118th Cong. (2023); American Dream and Promise Act of 2023, H.R. 16, 118th Cong. (2023).

³ DACA Updates, Immigrants Rising (last updated Sept. 14, 2023), www.immigrantsrising.org/daca.

⁴ Brief of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration as Amicus Curiae Supporting Defendants-Appellants at 4, *Texas v. United States*, No. 23-40653 (5th Cir. Feb. 1, 2024), www.presidentsalliance.org/state-of-texas-v-united-states-amicus-brief.

Supporting Access to Higher Education

Legislative relief for undocumented young people would eliminate their primary obstacle to accessing higher education, ineligibility for federal and most state-based financial aid.⁵ U.S. college and university campuses host more than 408,000 undocumented students as of 2021, with 141,000 undocumented students eligible for DACA or receiving DACA.⁶

Sally Alcocer Medina, DACA Recipient from California. “My pursuit of higher education took me to the University of California, Irvine, where I double-majored in psychology and biological sciences, all while maintaining three jobs and contributing to neurobiology research. Today, as a clinical research coordinator at UCI Health, I am on the cusp of furthering my career with aspirations of becoming a physician assistant—a role chosen to address the healthcare disparities faced by communities like mine. This ambition is paralleled by my entrepreneurial venture into real estate, aiming to build generational wealth and a legacy for my family. As a DACA recipient, my narrative intertwines with the fabric of this nation, a testament to the resilience and contributions of immigrants who dream of a fair chance to continue enriching the country they call home.”

Karen Gonzalez, DACA recipient from California. “I have wanted to be a teacher ever since I could remember. And because of DACA I have been able to pursue my dream career for the past seven years. I began working immediately after college as a teacher at a charter school in San Jose, California. I joined Teach For America and I got my teaching credential through Loyola Marymount as well as my Masters in Educational Policy and Administration. I have cleared multiple subject credentials with a bilingual teaching authorization. I am currently working to become a National Board Certified teacher. My hopes for the future is to be able to own a home and be able to have enough financial stability to support my parents and help them age with dignity.”

Sophia Henry, DACA recipient from Pennsylvania.⁷ “After several years and so many obstacles, I enrolled in a small affordable online school, and then once I received DACA, I transferred to a university online to complete my degree. I currently work for one of the biggest banks in the country in an operational role. I have been with the company for almost 8 years now, and I’ve educated myself in project management and am working on obtaining a role within the industry. I heavily engage in DEI initiatives for the company and am an employee resource network leader. I hope to eventually get citizenship so I can have some real stability and not have to worry about any changes coming or paying any fees to renew documents. I just renewed my DACA this year so it just buys some time until 2026, but I hope for a change for the better for all of us in this limbo stage and can’t plan more than 2 years in the future.”

⁵ See Overview of Undocumented Students, Immigrants Rising (last updated Oct. 2023), www.immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview-of-undocumented-students.

⁶ Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, Undocumented Students in Higher Education: How Many Students Are in U.S. Colleges and Universities, and Who Are They? 3 (Aug. 2023), www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/07.23-Undocumented-Students_v3.pdf.

⁷ Pseudonym

Only a quarter of undocumented students studying at colleges and universities are estimated to be eligible for DACA.⁸ Immigrants Rising's home state of California is home to the largest share of this population, 83,000 undocumented students enrolled in postsecondary education.⁹ Each year, approximately 98,000 undocumented students graduate from high school.¹⁰ Only a quarter are estimated to qualify for DACA, a figure likely to continually decline because of the processing of initial DACA applications is enjoined.¹¹

States that have extended in-state tuition and limited state-assistance to undocumented students have seen their workforces strengthened and postsecondary enrollment increased.¹² Access to federal student aid would multiply these benefits.

Supporting Immigrant Entrepreneurs

Legislative relief for young undocumented individuals would bolster the success of immigrant entrepreneurs by ensuring access to federal and state business-related benefits and incentives that come with lawful status and citizenship, including Small Business Administration Loans. Already over 12,000 DACA recipients own and run businesses, in turn employing other members of their communities.¹³ They form part of a larger corps of undocumented entrepreneurs, an estimated 820,000 in strength.¹⁴ Millennials and young people have contributed most to the increase in immigrant entrepreneurs.¹⁵ As DACA remains unavailable to increasing numbers of undocumented youth, many will have to turn to entrepreneurship to support themselves.¹⁶

Immigrants Rising has seen first hand the transformational impact undocumented entrepreneurs have on their families and communities.¹⁷ Through its SEED Initiative, Immigrants Rising distributed almost \$5.5 million in state-funded grants to immigrant entrepreneurs in 2023 and 2024.¹⁸ This financial support was especially critical during a time of economic instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁸ Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, *supra* note 6.

⁹ *Id.* at 6.

¹⁰ Overview of Undocumented Students, Immigrants Rising (last updated Oct. 2023), www.immigrantsrising.org/resource/overview-of-undocumented-students.

¹¹ See Steven Hubbard & Miriam Feldblum, *supra* note 6 at 3.

¹² *Id.* at 11.

¹³ Rosa Barrientos-Ferrer, Silva Mathema & Trinh Q. Truong, *Despite Barriers, DACA Entrepreneurs Contribute To Their Communities*, Ctr. for Am. Progress (Jan 25, 2024), www.americanprogress.org/article/despite-barriers-daca-entrepreneurs-contribute-to-their-communities.

¹⁴ Cindy Carcamo, *Shut Out of DACA, and Traditional Jobs, Young Immigrants Start Businesses to Get Ahead*, L.A. Times (Sept. 15, 2022), www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-09-15/10-years-ago-this-immigrant-didnt-qualify-for-daca-protecti-on-now-hes-an-entrepreneur.

¹⁵ *Id.*

¹⁶ *Id.*

¹⁷ Spark Powered by Immigrants Rising (last visited May 15, 2024), www.spark.immigrantsrising.org.

¹⁸ SEED Grant, Immigrants Rising (last visited May 15, 2024), www.immigrantsrising.org/seed-grant.

Many of Immigrants Rising's SEED grantees turned to entrepreneurship after losing employment. Ronald Paraiso opened his online shop, Rolly's Native Bags, after he was discriminated against and fired as a caregiver. With his business acumen, Mr. Paraiso identified a niche market with a demand for sustainable handbags on online platforms such as Poshmark and Offerup. He is relying on the SEED grant to help him restock and operate his business.

With more financial and general business development support from resources like SEED, immigrant businesses can grow. The Oakland restaurant, La Guerrera's Kitchen, has benefited from local resources like La Cocina, one of our SEED partners. Owner Reyna Maldonado shared that La Cocina helped her family formalize their street vending business into a brick-and-mortar restaurant with 6 employees who serve traditional Mexican food to the local community. A rent increase forced them to move to a new location, for which they will use the SEED funding. Similarly, the restaurant Daol Tofu, lost nearly 67% of sales due to COVID-19 closures. The owner, Sunny, shared that language barriers make it difficult for her to apply for business grants.¹⁹ With the support of Immigrants Rising, Sunny successfully applied for SEED funding and used the funds for marketing, overhead, and post-COVID-19 expenses. La Guerrera's Kitchen and Daol Tofu demonstrate how immigrant businesses can thrive and contribute to the economy with the support of essential resources like SEED.

Supporting Equitable Access to Legislative Relief

Legislative relief for undocumented young people needs to be equitable, without arbitrary bars to eligibility based on interactions with the criminal justice system. Immigrants Rising collected unique data regarding the intersection of immigrant youth, the criminal justice system, and the subsequent impact on availability of relief under legislative proposals, specifically, H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021.²⁰ Immigrants Rising collected nationwide survey responses from over 2,900 undocumented young people, with sample sizes of at least 1,500 for the following data.²¹

Over 90% of survey respondents were likely eligible for H.R. 6, with bars on eligibility for misdemeanors, traffic violations, or mere arrests reducing that figure.²² Immigrants who are people of color are subject to higher rates of racial profiling, including being detained and arrested by police.²³ This represents a consequence of these policies and counsels against bars to eligibility for arrest-related conduct absent a conviction.

¹⁹ Pseudonym

²⁰ American Dream and Promise Act of 2021, H.R. 6, 117th Cong. (2021).

²¹ See Immigrants Rising, How Can I Get My Papers? Lessons From A Decade Of Online Legal Intakes For Undocumented Immigrants 3, 23 (Dec. 2019), www.immigrantsrising.org/wp-content/uploads/Immigrants-Rising_How-Can-I-Get-My-Papers.pdf.

²² *Id.* at 15-16.

²³ See Nazgol Ghandnoosh & Celeste Barry, The Sentencing Project, One in Five: Disparities in Crime and Policing (Nov. 2, 2023), www.sentencingproject.org/reports/one-in-five-disparities-in-crime-and-policing.

Statement for the Record
Immigrants Rising
May 8, 2024

Immigrants Rising strongly supports equitable legislative relief for undocumented young people that in turn will promote access to higher education and support immigrant entrepreneurs. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement. For further information, please contact communications@immigrantsrising.org.



TheDream.US Scholars and Alumni Sign-on Letter

For Senate Judiciary Hearing: “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

May 8, 2024

As 1,746 Scholars and Alumni of TheDream.US, we respectfully urge Congress to broaden pathways for 'Dreamers' to regularize our status and provide us with the opportunity to pursue a path to U.S. citizenship naturalization. Providing a pathway to legalization will do more than provide certainty to Dreamers: such action will provide certainty to our families and communities and strengthen our nation's economy by ensuring the future of a vital, vibrant workforce.

Our stories are an impactful reminder of the critical role Dreamers play as members of diverse communities throughout the United States. We all came to this country at different points in our lives. Some of us came as babies or toddlers, while others came as school-aged children. But we all grew up knowing that the United States is our home. Despite the barriers we have faced, we have always persevered. We got into college, we found ways to finance our education, and we have embarked or are about to embark on meaningful careers.

Earning TheDream.US Scholarship marked a turning point for us. Submitting this letter to the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of bi-partisan action on Dreamer legislation is a privilege. We have the opportunity to represent thousands of other students like us who similarly reflect the diverse interests and limitless potential of the Dreamer population.

TheDream.US is the nation's largest college and career success program for undocumented immigrant students, having provided more than 10,000 college scholarships over the past decade. We the letter signers are graduates or students at 108 colleges and universities in 22 states and Washington, D.C. and graduated from high schools in 40 states and Washington, D.C.

Like our peers, we have earned degrees across a variety of disciplines and are employed in high-needs sectors. 25% of TheDream.US Scholars currently enrolled in college are pursuing majors in Science, Math, and Technology; 23% of us are studying Health and Medicine; and 16% are enrolled in Business programs. Those who have graduated are helping companies prosper, keeping our communities healthy, and teaching the next generation, infusing underemployed industries with the knowledge we have gained from our studies and lived experiences.

Of course, TheDream.US Scholars and Alumni are just part of the larger population of Dreamers who are working and contributing to our shared prosperity. Dreamers were a key part of our country's COVID-19 response: [340,000](#) DACA recipients were deemed “essential workers” during the pandemic and kept America running throughout the crisis. Since then, Dreamers have continued to take on vital roles, with [34,000](#) providing direct patient care as healthcare employees and [15,000](#) serving as K-12 teachers.

This month, many of us will participate in a few of the commencement ceremonies taking place across the nation, becoming part of the 4,000+ TheDream.US Alumni contributing to the American economy. While we are excited to take this next step, we are stymied by the instability of our status. Ongoing legal challenges to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program exacerbate the uncertainty we and our families face.

Without access to work permits, we are unable to make full use of our degrees. Without access to permanent legal status, we face daily insecurity that undermines our attempts to establish ourselves as entrepreneurial members of our communities.

We write as a collective voice, asking lawmakers to consider this moment as a key opportunity to facilitate pathways to success and security for all Dreamers, both with and without DACA or TPS.

There is broad support for bipartisan immigration reform. For example, a [March 2024 Wall Street Journal poll](#) found that 74% of Americans supported a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who have been in the country for many years and pass a background check. The public understands the critical role Dreamers can play in American society and are ready for Congress to find opportunities to work together on this issue.

We Dreamers are already contributing to our communities, living out the ideals of citizenship in our families, schools, and places of work. With permanent status, we could do so much more.

Our ask is simple: give us an opportunity. What we want is the chance to legalize our status so that all of us Dreamers, with and without DACA and TPS, can become full-fledged American citizens.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

TheDream.US Scholars and Alumni

Aaliyah Agboola, GA, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
 Aaron Diaz, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Aaron Leyva Sala, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Aashna Sheravia, NJ, Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 1
 Abelardo Camacho Calzada, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Abibatou Diallo, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biology, Age of arrival 5
 Abigail Castro Castill, NC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Undecided, Age of arrival 3
 Abigail Chavez Navarro, NY, Hostos Community College, Radiologic Technologist, Age of arrival 7
 Abigail Monfiston, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Business Management, Age of arrival 4
 Abiodun Jatto, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Geography, Age of arrival 15
 Abner Quirino, AZ, Arizona State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Abraham Cruz San Juan, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 1
 Abrihanna Batista, NY, Hunter College, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Abril Morales, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Absa Maiga, NJ, Baruch College, Marketing, Age of arrival 5
 Adela Hernandez, GA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 1
 Adolfo Salas, TX, University of Houston, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Adrian Arjoon, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Architecture, Age of arrival 6
 Adriana Guajardo Rincon, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Adriana Leon, UT, University of Utah, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Adriana Romero, UT, University of Utah, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 12
 Adriana Solis, NJ, New Jersey City University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 5
 Agnes Oliveira, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Agustina Lucero, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 5
 Aida Flores, IL, National Louis University, Business Management, Age of arrival 7
 Aide Salazar, GA, Oglethorpe University, Political Science, Age of arrival 5
 Airam Arroyo Infante, SC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 3
 Aishat Sule-Onosipe, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Aislim Picon, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Aissatou Fall, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Age of arrival 10
 Akanksha Bala, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Alan Martinez, MD, Delaware State University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Alan Mireles, TX, University of Houston, Construction Management, Age of arrival 2

Alan Munoz Valenciano, CO, Colorado State University, Sociology, Age of arrival 3
 Alan Piedra, TX, University of Houston, Political science, Age of arrival 4
 Alba Gonzalez, MD, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 8
 Alberto Rodriguez, OR, Portland State University, Public Health, Age of arrival 1
 Alejandra Alvarado, FL, Florida International University, Sociology, Age of arrival 11
 Alejandra Ceja Montes, OR, Western Oregon University, Childhood Education, Age of arrival 2
 Alejandra Del Giovane, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Alejandra Escobedo-Ortiz, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Alejandra Garcia, CA, California State University-East Bay, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Alejandra Gutierrez Magana, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Anthropology, Age of arrival 3
 Alejandra Merjil, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Alejandra Sifuentes, CO, Community College of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Alejandro Astudillo, FL, Florida International University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 1
 Alejandro Leon, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 12
 Alejandro Lopez Monroy, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Alejandro Madrid, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 3
 Alejandro Pena, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 10
 Alejandro Quinones-Silva, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Computer Science, Age of arrival 4
 Aleksander Szablinski, NY, Hunter College, Classics, Age of arrival 7
 Alenka Paul, FL, Florida International University, Legal Studies, Age of arrival 8
 Alessandra Cruz Lopez, UT, Weber State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 1
 Alex Ruiz Collazos, CT, Southern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 12
 Alexa Jalomo Ledezma, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 2
 Alexa Raymundo, TX, University of Houston, Business Administration/Management, Age of arrival 4
 Alexa Rosales, UT, University of Utah, Social Work, Age of arrival 13
 Alexander Escamilla, NY, Lehman College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Alexander Vega, TX, University of Houston, Media Studies, Age of arrival 4
 Alexandra Diaz, NY, College of Staten Island, Pre-Neuroscience, Age of arrival 1
 Alexandra Lira, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 1
 Alexandra Pantigozo-Cuellar, VA, George Mason University, Biological Specializations, Age of arrival 2
 Alexis Ayendano, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Alexis Vazquez, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Social Work, Age of arrival 2
 Alexsandra Lugo, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Communication and Digital Media, Age of arrival 11
 Alfredo Jimenez, CA, Sonoma State University, Business Administration/Accounting, Age of arrival 8
 Alfredo Mercado, NY, Hostos Community College, Doctor, Age of arrival 12
 Ali Camacho Araujo, UT, University of Utah, Entrepreneurship, Age of arrival 11
 Ali Chohan, NY, SUNY Stonybrook, Human Resources Management, Age of arrival 6
 Alici Cedeno Leon, NY, Brooklyn College, Business Management, Age of arrival 1
 Aline Lamadrid, IL, Dominican University, Business Management, Age of arrival 7
 Alisher Yokubjonov, NY, The City College of New York, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Alisson Xicohtencatl Perez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Forensic Science, Age of arrival 2
 Alix Cervantes, NY, Baruch College, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Allison Castellanos, VA, Marymount University, Psychology, Age of arrival 12
 Allison Viera, TX, University of Houston, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 4
 Alma Hernandez Cruz, CA, San Jose State University, English, Age of arrival 6
 Alma Mendez, FL, Florida International University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 3
 Alma Perez, NV, Nevada State College, Data Science, Age of arrival 4
 Almadelia Varona-Garcia, NV, Nevada State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Alofiotao Aimaasu, NV, Nevada State College, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 2
 Alondra Abad, LA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Alondra Jimenez Rodriguez, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Nursing, Age of arrival 10
 Alondra Ortega, AK, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Alondra Pacheco, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 9
 Alondra Rivera, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Political science, Age of arrival 2
 Alondra Villa, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Physician's Assistant, Age of arrival 1
 Alonso Ruiz Magana, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Amabile Santos Oliveria, CT, Southern Connecticut State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 12
 Amanda Almeida, NY, Lehman College, Education, Age of arrival 7
 Amanda Oforka, TX, University of Houston, Health and Wellness, Age of arrival 4
 Ameerah Tavera, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Amenia Morancy, FL, Miami Dade College, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 11
 America Martinez, TX, University of St. Thomas, Education, Age of arrival 5

America Mata, IL, National Louis University, Social Work, Age of arrival 4
 America Sepulveda Valenzuela, OR, Western Oregon University, Business, Age of arrival 1
 Amor Leyva, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Communications, Age of arrival 12
 Amparo Morais, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 3
 Ana Antonio Rodriguez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Clinical & Cultural Psychotherapist, Age of arrival 6
 Ana Arana, GA, Delaware State University, Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 6
 Ana Barradas, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 14
 Ana Campa Castillo, IL, National Louis University, Psychology, Age of arrival 6
 Ana Duron, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Ana Espinoza, NE, Purdue University Global (online), Social Work, Age of arrival 5
 Ana Gomez-Vargas, SC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 5
 Ana Hurtado, FL, University of Central Florida, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Ana Jimenez Gomez, SC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 6
 Ana Jiménez, IL, Roosevelt University, Paralegal, Age of arrival 8
 Ana Medeiros, FL, Palm Beach State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 12
 Ana Monroy, VA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Business Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Ana Sandoval Villafañá, NV, Nevada State College, Deaf Studies, Age of arrival 5
 Ana Teeppen, TX, University of California-Santa Cruz, Molecular, Cell, And Developmental Biology, Age of arrival 8
 Ana Torres, PA, Cabrini University, Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 Ana Zelaya, FL, Florida International University, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Ananda-Kaye Rochester, NY, Baruch College, Political Science, Age of arrival 11
 Anyeli Xicohtencatl, CA, San Francisco State University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 3
 Anyasa Navarrete, NY, Baruch College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 1
 Anderson Cantave, FL, University of Central Florida, Hospitality Industry, Age of arrival 6
 Andre Silva Cunha, PA, Cabrini University, Computer and Information Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Andrea Antonio Reyes, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Andrea Arocha, FL, Florida International University, Marketing, Age of arrival 8
 Andrea Campos Sanchez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Structural Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Andrea Carmona, IL, North Central College, Business, management, Age of arrival 14
 Andrea Garcia, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Andrea Meza, FL, Florida International University, Doctor, Age of arrival 2
 Andrea Olvera, TX, University of Houston, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Andrea Ortiz Jimenez, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Andrea Petho, NY, Queens College, Labor Studies, Age of arrival 10
 Andrea Rodriguez, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 7
 Andrea Sanchez, NY, Baruch College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 6
 Andrea Tagliaferri, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 15
 Andrea Tejeda, CT, Queens College, Anthropology, Age of arrival 4
 Andrea Valencia Espinoza, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 2
 Andrew Perdomo, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology, Age of arrival 11
 Anel Chavez Romero, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Anelis Ramirez, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Accounting, Age of arrival 7
 Angel Anchondo, TX, University of Houston, History, Age of arrival 1
 Angel Arias, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 6
 Angel Carbajal del Castillo, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Angel Lozano, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Human Resources Management, Age of arrival 1
 Angel Vanegas, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Angela Berroteran, FL, Florida International University, Accounting, Age of arrival 13
 Angela Callejas, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 5
 Angela Garcia, FL, Palm Beach State College, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 12
 Angela Martinez, IL, Dominican University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Angela Mendoza, OR, Western Oregon University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 1
 Angela Ngo, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Biology, Age of arrival 11
 Angelica Gonzalez Lopez, GA, Christian Brothers University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Angie Gamara Becerra, VA, Marymount University, Fashion Design, Age of arrival 3
 Angie Perez Mejia, NY, Lehman College, Computer Graphics & Imaging, Age of arrival 1
 Anjana Rajan, NY, The City College of New York, Computer Science, Age of arrival 4
 Anna Camacho, AZ, Phoenix College, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Anne Beaubrun, FL, University of Central Florida, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Anne Bien-Aime, NY, Hunter College, Art, Media and Technology, Age of arrival 10
 Anne Silva, FL, University of Central Florida, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Annetkie Allen, NY, Baruch College, Sociology, Age of arrival 12

Annie Ramos, TX, University of Houston, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 1
 Anniel Buckley, NY, The City College of New York, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 7
 Anthony Martinez Benitez, NY, Hunter College, Medicine, Age of arrival 6
 Antoinette Pimentel, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 6
 Antonio Da Costa, NJ, Rutgers University - Newark, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Antonio Escamilla, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Aerospace Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Antonio Rodriguez Honorato, TX, South Texas college, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Antonio Sandoval Duarte, VA, George Mason University, Accounting, Age of arrival 3
 Anzuri Lopez, LA, Delaware State University, Forensics Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Apolinar Islas, NY, New York University, Creative Writing, Age of arrival 15
 Aquilino Gonzalez solano, NY, College of Staten Island, Accounting, Age of arrival 14
 Araceli Castaneda, VA, George Mason University, Criminology, Age of arrival 3
 Araceli Gallegos, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Chemistry, Age of arrival 4
 Arantza Ibanez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Areli Munoz Reyes, MO, Eastern Connecticut State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 8
 Areli Ramos, IL, Lewis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 13
 Areli Reyes, MO, Eastern Connecticut State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 8
 Arely Aguilar Marquez, CO, Colorado State University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Arely Quintero, FL, Valencia College, Business Management, Age of arrival 5
 Ariadna Fernandez, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Computer Science, Age of arrival 11
 Ariadna Gonzalez, AR, Arkansas Tech University, Nursing, Age of arrival 9
 Ariana Hernandez Fernandez, VA, George Mason University, Health Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Ariana Herrera, WI, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Arianna Baez, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 12
 Arianni Gonzalez, FL, Florida International University, Law, Age of arrival 13
 Ariatna Tejada, FL, Palm Beach State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Ariel Gautier, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Ariel Tapia Soto, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Arlene Rodriguez Hernandez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Art History, Age of arrival 2
 Arleth Caliente, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Arlette Perez, FL, University of Central Florida, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Arlette Tapia Lopez, OR, Western Oregon University, Social Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Armando Yanez Peralta, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Arnold Moctezuma, IL, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Arnoldo Lobos, TN, Christian Brothers University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 5
 Artenio Kowalski, NY, Baruch College, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Arturo Corona, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Aryam Garcia, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 Ashley Arjune, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 8
 Ashley Magallanes, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Ashley Osorio, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Social Work, Age of arrival 11
 Ashley Paulino, NY, LaGuardia Community College, Paralegal, Age of arrival 3
 Ashley Sosa, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 14
 Astrid Burgos, UT, Weber State University, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 1
 Astry Miranda, TX, University of Houston, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Age of arrival 1
 Athena Acosta, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Audrey Garcia, CA, Arizona State University, Marketing, Age of arrival 11
 Audrey Tobing, TX, Purdue University Global (online), Clinical Nutrition, Age of arrival 2
 Aurora Lozano, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Avril Checo Marte, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 11
 Aylin Sotelo, NC, Delaware State University, Finance and Banking, Age of arrival 3
 Azcecz Alimi, NY, Lehman College, Social Work, Age of arrival 5
 Azucena Gaitan, TX, San Antonio College, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Baoying Liang Wu, NY, College of Staten Island, Computer Science, Age of arrival 15
 Bar Leshed, NJ, Rowan University, Marketing, Age of arrival 3
 Bartłomiej Trzaska, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 15
 Banuj Garces, FL, Florida International University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 5
 Beatriz Carlos, IL, National Louis University, Communications, Age of arrival 2
 Belen Sisa, AZ, Arizona State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 6
 Belkis Cruz, FL, Florida International University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 14
 Benjamin Cardenas, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Berdjinaile Louis, FL, University of South Florida, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 7

Berenice Perez, FL, Valencia College, Environmental Studies, Age of arrival 9
 Berly Moran, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Mathematics, Age of arrival 5
 Bernardo Luna, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Accounting, Age of arrival 3
 Bertha Avalos, FL, Florida International University, Education, Age of arrival 1
 Betania Lopez Guerrero, NY, The City College of New York, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 2
 Betzabe Rodriguez, AZ, Arizona State University, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 7
 Bhetsua Tinoco, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Bianca Leon, IL, Dominican University, International Relations, Age of arrival 3
 Bibi Mohamed, NY, Baruch College, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Bilguun-Erdene Mendsaikhan, VA, George Mason University, Marketing, Age of arrival 7
 Blanca Barajas, FL, University of Central Florida, Communications, Age of arrival 1
 Blanca Gonzalez, UT, Weber State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Blanca Jaime, CA, University of California-Merced, Sociology, Age of arrival 4
 Blanca Polanco, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Blanca Tacuri, NY, Baruch College, Accounting, Age of arrival 14
 Bogdan Afanasyev, NY, Medgar Evers College, Finance and economics, Age of arrival 14
 Bolu Apantaku, IL, University of St. Francis, Communication Design, Age of arrival 12
 Brailan Flores, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Brandon Baeza, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Communication and Digital Media, Age of arrival 2
 Brandon Bedoya, NY, The City College of New York, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Brandon Gonzalez Lezama, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Human Resources Management, Age of arrival 3
 Brandon Humberto Gonzalez Cruz, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Brandon Martinez, TX, University of Houston, Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Braulio B. Alfaro Vazquez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Political Science, Age of arrival 11
 Brayan Armijo, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Brayan Magallanes, IL, National Louis University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Breanna Glegg, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Information Systems, Age of arrival 12
 Brenda Agüero, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Brenda Cabrera, NC, Purdue University Global (online), Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 7
 Brenda Cimental Ramirez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Entrepreneurial Studies, Age of arrival 2
 Brenda Galdamez, NY, Farmingdale State College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Brenda Gutierrez, IL, Dominican University, Undecided, Age of arrival 4
 Brenda Hernandez, FL, Florida International University, Health Services Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Brenda Joaquin Avila, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Law and Society, Age of arrival 5
 Brenda Medellin, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Psychology, Age of arrival 7
 Brenda Meléndez, ID, Purdue University Global (online), Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 10
 Brenda Moreno, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 5
 Brenda Renovato, CA, San Jose State University, Education, Age of arrival 5
 Brett Kim, WI, Christian Brothers University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Brian Olivo, IL, Northern Illinois University, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Brian Ortega, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Business Management Economics, Age of arrival 2
 Brian Rodriguez, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Briana Castillo Ardon, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Social Work, Age of arrival 1
 Briana Crista Santos Lopez, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, International Business, Age of arrival 9
 Brianda Perez Ortega, NY, Hunter College, Education, Age of arrival 1
 Brinache Isma, FL, Florida International University, Public Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Brisa Cruz Perez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Brisa Gordillo, TX, University of Houston, Finance, Age of arrival 9
 Briseida Lindoro, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 4
 Briseida Loaza, AR, Arkansas Tech University, Health Informatics and Information Management, Age of arrival 3
 Britney Ortiz, FL, University of Central Florida, Marketing, Age of arrival 4
 Brittany Granado, NY, New York City College of Technology, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 14
 Brizeth Silva, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Bryan Contreras Zamora, CO, Colorado State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Bryan Gonzalez, NY, The City College of New York, Physics, Age of arrival 4
 Bryan Leal, NY, Baruch College, Actuarial Science, Age of arrival 1
 Bryan Palafox, IL, National Louis University, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Byeong Su Kim, CT, Rutgers University-Newark, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Byron Huerta-Paucar, NY, Baruch College, Accounting, Age of arrival 10
 Camila Ardiles, FL, Valencia College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 13
 Camila Ceballos, FL, Florida International University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Camila Garza Vázquez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 7

Camila Krzyzanowski de Jesus, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Camila Ramirez-Martinelli, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Camila Salkov, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Accounting, Age of arrival 15
 Camila Sobrevilla, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Advertising, Age of arrival 8
 Camila Triana, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Camila Ventura-Martinez, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Public And Nonprofit Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Candy Gamboa, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Social Work, Age of arrival 9
 Carina Guillen Trujillo, AZ, Arizona State University, Food and Nutrition Entrepreneurship, Age of arrival 7
 Carlos Arguello, AZ, Arizona State University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Carlos Anas, FL, University of Central Florida, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 13
 Carlos Barraza Treviño, AZ, University of Texas-El Paso, Education, Age of arrival 8
 Carlos Bonilla, NC, Dominican University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Carlos Colmenero, TX, University of Houston, Economics, Age of arrival 2
 Carlos Diaz, MA, Delaware State University, Physics, Age of arrival 1
 Carlos Dominguez, KS, Park University, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 14
 Carlos Florito, FL, University of Central Florida, Finance, Age of arrival 9
 Carlos GD, MA, Florida Atlantic University, Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Carlos Hernandez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Industrial Design, Age of arrival 6
 Carlos Hernandez, TX, University of Houston, Political Science, Age of arrival 6
 Carlos Melgarejo, NY, University at Albany, Business, Age of arrival 4
 Carlos Navarro, AZ, Arizona State University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Carlos Reyes, MN, Dunwoody College of Technology, Architecture, Age of arrival 6
 Carlos Rivera, VA, George Mason University, Finance, Age of arrival 9
 Carlos Rubio, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Undecided, Age of arrival 5
 Carlos Santander Espinoza, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 Carol Litroff, NY, Queensborough Community College, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 13
 Carolina Bustamante, TX, University of Houston, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Carolina Deras Herrera, AZ, Arizona State University, Digital Marketing, Age of arrival 7
 Carolina Duran, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Carolina Leon Cisneros, NY, Hunter College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 3
 Caroline Arevalo Gomez, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 7
 Carol Guillen, FL, Broward College, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 16
 Catherine Dominguez Nava, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Science, Age of arrival 1
 Catherine Hernandez, TX, University of Houston, Marketing, Age of arrival 2
 Cecilia Holguin, AZ, Phoenix College, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 3
 Cecilia Perez Villalpando, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Social Work, Age of arrival 2
 Cecilia Vallejo, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Cecilia Villatoro, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 11
 Cecilia Yanes, VA, George Mason University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 6
 Celeste Guevara, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Cesar Amaya, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Education, Age of arrival 4
 Cesar Amaya, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Spanish, Age of arrival 4
 Cesar Martinez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 6
 Cesar Panana Lacherre, VA, George Mason University, Economics, Age of arrival 9
 Cesar Zaragoza, CA, Purdue University Global (online), Finance, Age of arrival 12
 Cesia Bulnes Melgar, WA, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Cesia Rubio Martinez, TX, University of Houston, Hospitality Management, Age of arrival 5
 Chabanna Tidor, FL, Palm Beach State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Chandanie Roberts, NY, York College, Health Science, Age of arrival 11
 Chardell Morris, NJ, The City College of New York, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Charina Santos, NY, Hostos Community College, Liberal Arts, Age of arrival 5
 Charles de Fiesta, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Computer Science, Age of arrival 7
 Chelsea Hagan Brown, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Chigoziri Ene, NY, The City College of New York, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 10
 Chresmely Espinal, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 7
 Chris Hutagaol, VA, George Mason University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 3
 Christian Ayala, DE, Delaware State University, Business Information Systems, Age of arrival 1
 Christian Deras, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Actuarial Science, Age of arrival 4
 Christian Perez, NY, The City College of New York, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Christian Ponce, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, History, Age of arrival 2
 Christian Ramirez, MD, Marymount University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 4
 Christian Rojas, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Business Administration, Age of arrival 5

Christian Valle Castro, NY, The City College of New York, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Chunyan Zhou, NY, Baruch College, Undecided, Age of arrival 12
 Cielo Ponce De Leon, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 2
 Cindy Avila, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Bilingual Elementary education, Age of arrival 14
 Cindy Jimenez Santana, NY, Hunter College, Psychology, Age of arrival 12
 Cindy Lopez, TX, University of St. Thomas, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Cindy Pineda, DE, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Cinthia Gonzalez, AZ, Arizona State University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Cinthya Perez, NY, Hunter College, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Citlali Diaz, SC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Health Services, Age of arrival 5
 Citlali Gervacio Zavala, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology, Age of arrival 5
 Citlali Mendoza, FL, University of Central Florida, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Age of arrival 10
 Citlali Munoz Gonzalez, MS, Christian Brothers University, Marketing, Age of arrival 2
 Citlalli Rosas, FL, Florida International University, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Clara Caicedo, NY, The City College of New York, Childhood Education, Age of arrival 1
 Clarice Sanon, NY, Medgar Evers College, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Claudia Castillo, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 11
 Claudia Flores, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Business, Age of arrival 1
 Claudia Guerrero, MO, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 9
 Claudia Martinez, TX, University of Houston, Nutrition Sciences, Age of arrival 6
 Claudia Monroy (Morales Dominguez), FL, Florida International University, Public Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Claudia Paz Flores, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 3
 Claudia Torres, VA, George Mason University, Masters, Age of arrival 6
 Cleyver Gomez De La Cruz, FL, University of Central Florida, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Colbyd Munillo, FL, University of Central Florida, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 11
 Consuelo Ramirez, NC, Delaware State University, Mass Communications and Media Studies, Age of arrival 2
 Coral Guardado, IL, Dominican University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Cristian Hernandez, CA, San Jose State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Cristial Juarez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Cristhian Ramirez, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Age of arrival 4
 Cristhian Rodriguez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 7
 Cristian Lopez, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Cristian Moran, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 2
 Cristina Constantino, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Education, Age of arrival 11
 Cristina Fierro Mendoza, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Cristina Guerrero Palestina, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Childhood Education, Age of arrival 3
 Cristina Ortiz, NJ, Lehman College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 9
 Cristina Trinidad, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 8
 Cristofer Lucio, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Construction Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Cristofer Penuela, GA, Oglethorpe University, Accounting, Age of arrival 2
 Cristopher Duy, PA, College of Staten Island, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Cristopher Gutierrez Echeverria, AZ, Arizona State University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Cristopher Ortega, GA, Oglethorpe University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Cruz Almonaci Vargas, TX, University of Houston, Public Policy, Age of arrival 3
 Cynthia Charco, NC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Cynthia De la Cruz, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Human Services, Age of arrival 1
 Cynthia Okoko, NJ, Rutgers Business School Newark, Accounting, Age of arrival 12
 Cynthia Perez S, CA, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 13
 Dafenie Mere, FL, University of Central Florida, Accounting, Age of arrival 8
 Dafne Gomez, TX, University of Houston, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 4
 Daila Marroquin, OR, Western Oregon University, Political Science, Age of arrival 3
 Dale St. Marthe, NY, York College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Damaris Domingo, AZ, Arizona State University, Environmental Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Damaris Uriegas, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 2
 Damaris Villegas, NY, The City College of New York, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Damela Cedelias, FL, Florida International University, Education, Age of arrival 9
 Danae Vargas, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Communication Technologies, Age of arrival 3
 Dania Banon Vazquez, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Daniel Cuevas, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 4
 Daniel Diaz Garcia, NV, Nevada State College, History, Age of arrival 5
 Daniel Escobar, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Communications, Age of arrival 6
 Daniel Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9

Daniel Gonzalez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Daniel Nicolas, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Human Services Mental Health, Age of arrival 2
 Daniel Perales, FL, Florida International University, Multimedia Program Design, Age of arrival 13
 Daniel Perez, CA, San Jose State University, Industrial Tech/Manufacturing Systems, Age of arrival 11
 Daniel Rada, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 3
 Daniela Andrade Perez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Daniela Cerda, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Social Work, Age of arrival 6
 Daniela Daza, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Daniela Franco, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Daniela Fuerte, GA, Delaware State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Daniela Gonzalez, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Daniela Gutierrez, OH, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Daniela Iniestra Varelas, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Sociology, Age of arrival 6
 Daniela Jofre, FL, Florida International University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 4
 Daniela Lopez, NY, Hunter College, Social Work, Age of arrival 6
 Daniela Monge Sanchez, NC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Nursing, Age of arrival 10
 Daniela Nassar Bermudez, FL, University of South Florida, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Daniela Raudales Reyes, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Daniela Reyes Garza, TX, San Antonio College, Mortuary Science, Age of arrival 5
 Daniela Valladares, NY, New York City College of Technology, Human Services, Age of arrival 5
 Daniela Zelaya, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Education, Age of arrival 3
 Danisabel De La Cruz, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Gender Studies, Age of arrival 3
 Danna Munoz, NY, New York City College of Technology, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 11
 Danny Hernandez, GA, Florida International University, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 15
 Danny Valdez, VA, George Mason University, Human Development, Age of arrival 8
 Darcy Pena Pineda, CT, Southern Connecticut State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 10
 Darla Moise, NY, Brooklyn College, Political Science, Age of arrival 6
 Darling Guerrero, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Nursing, Age of arrival 14
 Daril Garcia Soto, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Administration/Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Darshanic Rambharack, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Darsy Reyes, IL, North Park University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 David Avila, IL, Dominican University, Data Science, Age of arrival 4
 David Juarez Conde, TX, University of Houston, Marketing, Age of arrival 1
 David Martinez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 David Medina, NY, Brooklyn College, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 David Moreno, FL, Florida International University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 4
 David Prieto, FL, Florida International University, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Dayana Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 10
 Dayana S, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Dayanara Cordero, AR, Christian Brothers University, Marketing, Age of arrival 14
 Dayanara Puca, IL, Dominican University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Dayanna Sala Figueroa, NY, Baruch College, Marketing, Age of arrival 12
 Daylin Arroyo, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Daylie Martinez, NY, The City College of New York, International Studies, Age of arrival 12
 Daysi Duarte Benito, TX, University of Houston, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 7
 Daysi Huerta, NY, Hunter College, Clinical Therapist, Age of arrival 6
 Dean Megie, NJ, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Surgical Technique, Age of arrival 9
 Deane Gumila, TX, Texas A&M University - San Antonio, Political Science, Age of arrival 11
 Debora Goiz Esparza, AZ, California State University-Long Beach, Aerospace Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Deili Silva, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 1
 Delia Rodriguez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Social Work, Age of arrival 3
 Denard Vanegas, PA, Cabrini University, Political science, Age of arrival 8
 Denilson Ferreira, FL, Florida International University, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Denilson Nunez, FL, Florida International University, Public relations and Advertising, Age of arrival 3
 Denis Alvarez, AZ, Arizona State University, Secondary Education, Age of arrival 5
 Denisa Fernandez, VA, George Mason University, Social Work, Age of arrival 2
 Denise Evans, TX, Arizona State University, Product owner, Age of arrival 13
 Denisse Gracia, IL, National Louis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Denisse Merino, NY, Baruch College, Business Communications, Age of arrival 12
 Derek Herrera Diaz, SC, Christian Brothers University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 5
 Devi Ramjit, NY, York College, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Deyra Carranza, AZ, Arizona State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 6

Dhvani Mehta, UT, University of Utah, Business, Age of arrival 4
 Diadelfa Flores Peralta, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Diana Aguilera, AZ, Arizona State University, Dietetics and Nutrition, Age of arrival 10
 Diana Gonzalez Gutierrez, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Diana Hernandez, CA, San Francisco State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 11
 Diana Maciel, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Diana Marines, IL, National Louis University, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Diana Ortega, VA, George Mason University, History, Age of arrival 2
 Diana Ovalle, TX, El Centro College, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Diana Quiroz, OK, Purdue University Global (online), Clinical Mental Health Counseling, Age of arrival 12
 Diana Reyes, MO, Purdue University Global (online), Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Diana Rodriguez, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Diana Romero, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Law enforcement, Age of arrival 15
 Diana Ruiz Rochel, UT, University of Utah, Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Diego Barahona, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Diego Boscan, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 9
 Diego Dulanto Falcon, FL, University of South Florida, Public Health, Age of arrival 3
 Diego Gayosso Hernandez, AZ, Arizona State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Diego Gonzalez, TX, University of Houston, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Diego Hernandez Mendoza, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Philosophy and Religion, Age of arrival 4
 Diego Hernandez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance, Age of arrival 14
 Diego Hernandez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance, Age of arrival 14
 Diego Luevanos, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Diego Martinez, FL, Florida International University, Accounting, Age of arrival 8
 Diego Mendoza, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Computer Science, Age of arrival 5
 Diego Miranda, LA, Christian Brothers University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Diego Rendon, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Theater Arts, Age of arrival 10
 Diego Ruiz, NC, Arizona State University, Management, Age of arrival 7
 Dilcia Sanchez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Dilia Eleonora, NJ, New Jersey City University, Social Work, Age of arrival 14
 Dillan Hernandez Rojas, CA, San Jose State University, Political science, Age of arrival 3
 Dinesh Lal, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Diojani Valle, TX, University of Houston, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Dixy Ortiz Osorio, MD, George Mason University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 10
 Djevine Louis, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Social Work, Age of arrival 12
 Domenica Caceres, NY, The City College of New York, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Dornick Ewing, FL, Florida International University, Accounting, Age of arrival 6
 Donoya Distant, FL, Miami Dade College, Accounting, Age of arrival 16
 Dulce Valenzuela, VA, George Mason University, Bioengineering, Age of arrival 13
 Dulce Guerrero, GA, Delaware State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Dulce Hernandez, AR, Arkansas Tech University, Rehabilitation Services, Age of arrival 1
 Dulce Lopez, WI, Arrupe College of Loyola University of Chicago, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Dulce Orozco Avila, MN, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 10
 Dulce Velazquez, TX, University of Houston, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Dwayne Mehcz, FL, Florida International University, Communications, Age of arrival 2
 Ebelin Alcantara Ramos, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 1
 Edenilson Alfaro, NY, Queensborough Community College, Finance, Age of arrival 12
 Edgar Alejandro Tinajero Garcia, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Edgar Avalos Loaeza, TN, Christian Brothers University, Engineering Mechanics, Age of arrival 5
 Edgar Ayala, NV, Nevada State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Edgar Reyes, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Edgar Villegas, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Edgardo Jimenez Montero, UT, Weber State University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Edin Aguilar Vazquez, CA, University of California-Los Angeles, Undecided, Age of arrival 5
 Edith Ramirez, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Development, Age of arrival 9
 Eduardo Aponte Chantes, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Community Health Education, Age of arrival 2
 Eduardo Coyotecatl Pajarito, NY, Hunter College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Eduardo Flores, NJ, Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Eduardo Garcia, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Latin American and Latina/o Studies, Age of arrival 5
 Eduardo Moreno Vidales, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Eduardo Perez, UT, University of Utah, Film Production, Age of arrival 4
 Eduardo Rivera Burgos, NC, Dominican University, International Relations, Age of arrival 9

Eduardo Rodriguez, VA, George Mason University, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Eduardo Sampaio, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Edwin Juarez, TX, University of St. Thomas, Nursing, Age of arrival 13
 Edward Guevara, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Edwin Santibanez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Edwynn Calalpa, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 4
 Efrén Gonzalez, IL, Dominican University, Chemistry, Age of arrival 5
 Eimee Diaz Rueda, IL, Dominican University, Fashion Design, Age of arrival 6
 Elena Rodríguez Ramirez, CA, San Jose State University, Child And Adolescent Development, Age of arrival 15
 Elia Muzquiz, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 1
 Elias Espin S., CO, Colorado State University, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Eliza Navarrete Silva, IL, North Park University, Business Economics, Age of arrival 3
 Elizabeth Barragan, UT, Weber State University, Radiologist Assistance, Age of arrival 8
 Elizabeth Lucero, NY, The City College of New York, Bilingual Childhood Education, Age of arrival 11
 Elizabeth Ortiz Bucio, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Elizabeth Paltan, NY, College of Staten Island, Photography, Age of arrival 6
 Elizabeth Reyes, NC, Delaware State University, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 2
 Elizabeth Sandoval, TX, University of Houston, Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Elizabeth Sanchez, GA, Christian Brothers University, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Eloisa Gomez Corona, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Marketing, Age of arrival 2
 Eloy Casanova, FL, Valencia College, Marine Biology, Age of arrival 15
 Elsa Citlali Velasco Santiago, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Elvira Agaton, GA, Delaware State University, Aviation Flight Management, Age of arrival 9
 Emanuel Ramos, IL, National Louis University, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Emely Barahona, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Emely Garcia, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Emerson Loaiza, MA, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 13
 Emilia Alvarado, FL, Southeastern University, Social Work, Age of arrival 6
 Emiliano Sifuentes Linares, TX, San Antonio College, Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Emily Astudillo, FL, Florida International University, Health Services Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Emily Martinez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Management, Age of arrival 4
 Enrique Balderrama, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Integrated Health Studies, Age of arrival 7
 Enrique Cuapio, NY, Lehman College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Erdwin Garcia, FL, Florida International University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Eribeth Delgado, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Dance, Age of arrival 2
 Eric Garcia, CO, California State University-East Bay, Business, Age of arrival 3
 Erick Alvarenga, NY, Farmingdale State College, Electrical Engineering Technology, Age of arrival 10
 Erick Castro, TX, Florida International University, Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Erick Enriquez-Vega, FL, University of Central Florida, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Erick Reyes, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Erik Cruz Morales, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Public Policy, Age of arrival 8
 Erik Lozano Torres, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Age of arrival 2
 Erik Velazquez, MS, Christian Brothers University, Business Administration/Management, Age of arrival 1
 Erika Acosta Barron, TX, University of Houston, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Erika Chocolatl, DC, Rutgers University- Newark, Economics, Age of arrival 8
 Erika Contreras-Padilla, IN, Purdue University Global (online), Community Health Education, Age of arrival 1
 Erika Hernandez Elivar, TX, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Erika Juarez, NY, Queensborough Community College, Environmental Science, Age of arrival 6
 Erika Lopez Tovar, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Human Resources, Age of arrival 3
 Erika Molina, MD, Marymount University, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
 Erika Noel, FL, Florida International University, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Erika Ramos-Vera, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, General Studies, Age of arrival 1
 Esmeralda Cruz Ortiz, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Criminology & Sociology, Age of arrival 3
 Esmeralda Gonzalez Mendoza, NV, Nevada State College, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Esmeralda Hernandez Vega, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Esmeralda Huerta Garcia, NY, Queens College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 11
 Esmeralda Ixchajchal, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Criminology & Sociology, Age of arrival 8
 Esmeralda Orozco, CO, Community College of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 7
 Esperanza Sintigo, GA, Oglethorpe University, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 15
 Estefania Baron Rodriguez, FL, University of South Florida, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Estefania Zavaliya, IL, Dominican University, Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 Estefanny Perez Hernandez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8

Estefany Cabrera Gonzalez, MD, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Political science, Age of arrival 1
 Estefany Gonzalez, TN, Christian Brothers University, Accounting, Age of arrival 3
 Estefany Tojil, FL, Palm Beach State College, Architecture, Age of arrival 8
 Estela Y Espino Nunez, NY, Hostos Community College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 12
 Estephania Del Rosario, NY, Lehman College, Education, Age of arrival 3
 Estephany Flores, IL, North Park University, Business, Age of arrival 12
 Estephany Martinez, GA, Delaware State University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 8
 Esthefanny Concepcion, FL, Miami Dade College, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 7
 Esther Contreras, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 4
 Esther Mallen, NY, The City College of New York, Computer Science, Age of arrival 13
 Esther Miranda, PA, Cabrini University, Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Eudelia Anahi Polanco, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 1
 Eva Santos Veloz, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Political Science, Age of arrival 9
 Evelin Delgado, DC, Marymount University, Education, Age of arrival 13
 Evelin Mejia Vargas, TX, University of Houston, Biotechnology, Age of arrival 2
 Evelin Ortiz Espinoza, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Human Relations, Age of arrival 11
 Evelin Zamudio, FL, University of Central Florida, Psychology, Age of arrival 6
 Evelyn Avila, NY, SUNY Old Westbury, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Evelyn Cruz, NY, Brooklyn College, Human Services Mental Health, Age of arrival 7
 Evelyn Flores, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Business Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Evelyn Rosales, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Evelyn Vasquez, NY, The City College of New York, Medicine, Age of arrival 1
 Ewaoluwa Obatunase, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Eyhdi Osorio, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 Fanny Camacho, CA, California State University-East Bay, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Farhan Mamun, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 13
 Faridat Ayuba, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Fatima Davila, NY, The City College of New York, Political Science, Age of arrival 8
 Fatima Davila, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Fatima Duran, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Fatima Vasquez, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Fatima Villagomez, IL, University of St. Francis, Visual Art, Age of arrival 3
 Favour Edehomon, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biopsychology, Age of arrival 12
 Federico Curiel, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Undecided, Age of arrival 3
 Felipe Alba Marin, TX, University of Houston, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Felipe Villegas, AZ, San Antonio College, Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Fernanda Cervantes, AZ, Arizona State University, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 3
 Fernanda Garcia Diaz, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Mathematics Education, Age of arrival 4
 Fernanda Tejada Flores, FL, University of Central Florida, Visual Art, Age of arrival 6
 Fernando Caudillo Tafuya, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Fernando Mariu, NY, Bronx Community College, Radiology Technician, Age of arrival 16
 Fernando Morales, GA, Delaware State University, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 6
 Filip Chlopek, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Fiorella Ruiz Picado, PA, University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine, Dentistry, Age of arrival 7
 Flor Martinez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Flor Santiago, FL, University of Central Florida, Molecular Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Florencia Laino, IL, Dominican University, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 1
 Florencia Urquiza Francia, FL, Palm Beach State College, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Florencio Morales Rodriguez, NY, Baruch College, Marketing, Age of arrival 1
 Francesca Ledoux, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 13
 Francesca Ledoux, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 6
 Francheska Abrogueña, NY, Baruch College, Marketing, Age of arrival 9
 Francisco Barros, NY, The City College of New York, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Francisco Ramos, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Business, Age of arrival 1
 Francisco Teon, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Franco Franco Flores, NY, Lehman College, Psychology, Age of arrival 14
 Franco Porcile, FL, Broward College, Student, Age of arrival 2
 Franklin Calderon, TX, Miami Dade College, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 11
 Frida Nieto, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Criminology & Sociology, Age of arrival 6
 Frida Velazquez Cruz, TX, San Antonio College, Dentistry, Age of arrival 1
 Frisly Ambrocio, GA, Christian Brothers University, Construction Management, Age of arrival 1
 Gabriel Gamino Guerrero, AZ, Arizona State University, Communication and Journalism, Age of arrival 5

Gabriel Jacildo, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Dietetics Food Administration Nutrition, Age of arrival 6
 Gabriel Mendoza, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Gabriela Ceja Ramirez, FL, Lehman College, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 6
 Gabriela Magana, IL, National Louis University, Psychology, Age of arrival 9
 Gabriela Mark, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Medical Laboratory Science, Age of arrival 15
 Gabriela Martinez Chevez, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Gabriela Martinez, AZ, Arizona State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Gabriela Ngo, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Gabriela Pacheco, CO, Colorado State University, Anthropology, Age of arrival 3
 Gabriela Perez, IL, Lewis University, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 1
 Gabriela Rodriguez Trujillo, IL, National Louis University, education, Age of arrival 7
 Gabriela Sevilla, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Health Informatics and Information Management, Age of arrival 7
 Gabriela Varela Santana, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Economics, Age of arrival 1
 Gabryella Waas, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 2
 Gadiel Rodriguez, NY, Lehman College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Galilea Torres, AZ, Arizona State University, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 6
 Gema Villalobos, VA, George Mason University, Accounting, Age of arrival 7
 Genesis Conway, FL, Miami Dade College, Secondary Education, Age of arrival 3
 Genesis Cortes, IL, Florida International University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Genesis Labori, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Genesis Leal Santos, NC, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Genesis Navarro, TX, San Antonio College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Genika Celestin, FL, Florida International University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Geo Reyes Montes, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Communications, Age of arrival 3
 Gerardo Hernandez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Communications, Age of arrival 4
 Gerdjana Toussaint, NY, Queens College, Psychology, Age of arrival 8
 German Woo, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 3
 Geyson Gutierrez, GA, Delaware State University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 4
 Gian Marco Ruta, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Giancarlo Escobar, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Gianella Deza, NY, Queensborough Community College, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Michael Brown, NY, CUNY School of Professional Studies, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Giovanni Pusey, NJ, Essex County Community College, Undecided, Age of arrival 7
 Giselle Brown, NY, Baruch College, International Affairs, Age of arrival 8
 Gladys Hernandez, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Glancy Rosales, VA, George Mason University, Sociology, Age of arrival 11
 Gledis Levenisht, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 11
 Gleenson Constant, FL, Valencia College, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Glendi Rodriguez, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Gloria Espitia, OR, Eastern Oregon University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Gloria Rinconi, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Goodness Mbaeri, TX, University of Houston, Kinesiology - Exercise science, Age of arrival 5
 Graciela Nunez, NC, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 7
 Grechell Godoy, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Greta Vasiliauskaite, CA, Illinois Institute of Technology, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Guadalupe Alegre Mai, FL, Miami Dade College, Accounting and Finance, Age of arrival 15
 Guadalupe Avila, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Undecided, Age of arrival 4
 Guadalupe Gonzalez Cuevas, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 3
 Guadalupe Perez, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Guido Saca, NY, Hunter College, Biology, Age of arrival 7
 Guilherme Silva, NY, The City College of New York, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Guillermo Cuevas, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Guillermo Fuentes, NY, Hunter College, Journalism, Age of arrival 12
 Guillermo Martinez, TX, University of Houston, Finance and Banking, Age of arrival 1
 Gustavo Jimenez Castro, FL, University of Central Florida, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Hadriana Leveque, NY, The City College of New York, Biotechnology, Age of arrival 13
 Hafsa Mamun, NY, Hunter College, Physician Assistance, Age of arrival 5
 Hannah Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Nutrition, Age of arrival 2
 Hannia Pantoja, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Hanny Gonzalez, TX, University of Houston, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 5
 Hardik Mistry, PA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Harold Silva, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Science, Age of arrival 1

Haroon Waheed, NY, SUNY Stonybrook, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Hassly Pacheco, VA, George Mason University, Health Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Hazel Coto, TX, University of Houston, Communication Arts, Age of arrival 7
 Heajin Joung, NY, Baruch College, Marketing, Age of arrival 4
 Hector Arroyo De La Paz, MA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Education, Age of arrival 3
 Hector Martinez, NY, Hunter College, Sociology, Age of arrival 11
 Hector Pelliccioni, FL, University of Central Florida, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 12
 Hector Robledo, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Public Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Hector Valles Salas, CO, Community College of Denver, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Heidi Moreno, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Heidy Diaz, TX, University of Houston, Mathematics, Age of arrival 4
 Helena Lee, FL, University of Central Florida, Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 7
 Hellen Vasquez, CA, California State University-East Bay, Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Hemang Limbachiya, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Henry Aguilar, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 8
 Henry Torres Garcia, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Education, Age of arrival 7
 Heydy Guadalupe Rios Velasquez, TX, University of Houston, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Hídalvi Gonzalez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Hiromi Blazquez, UT, University of Utah, Marketing, Age of arrival 1
 Hubert Dron, NY, The City College of New York, Medical Laboratory Science, Age of arrival 5
 Hugo Guerrero, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Hye Won Jeong, VA, George Mason University, Accounting, Age of arrival 16
 Hyoon Oh, NJ, Rutgers University- New Brunswick, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Ibukunoluwa Oladipupo, FL, University of Central Florida, Computer Science, Age of arrival 11
 Ifeoluwa Adeleke, TX, University of Houston, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Ikeer Fuentes, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 7
 Iliana Castillon, CO, Colorado State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 4
 Ilse Amateco, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Ilse Rivera, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Criminology, Age of arrival 3
 Imeyrani Islas, GA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Political science, Age of arrival 2
 Imran Muhammad, NY, Baruch College, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 11
 Inda Sandoval, IL, Dominican University, Fashion Merchandising, Age of arrival 2
 Indira Islas, GA, Delaware State University, Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Ingrid Buenrostro, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Ingrid Diaz, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business, Age of arrival 1
 Ingrid Sandoval Sanchez, VA, George Mason University, Health Administration, Age of arrival 8
 Irene La Spisa, NY, York College, English Language, Age of arrival 14
 Iris Mejia, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Irlanda Martinez, CA, San Jose State University, Sociology, Age of arrival 5
 Irlanda Tapia, UT, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 11
 Irma Salazar, NY, Hunter College, Biology, Age of arrival 7
 Irving Hernandez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Isaac Armijo, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Exercise Science, Age of arrival 6
 Isaac Otolara, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Isaac Restrepo Camona, FL, University of Central Florida, Physics, Age of arrival 5
 Isabel Ramirez Zarzoza, TN, Christian Brothers University, Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Isabela Morales, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Isabella Canizares, FL, Florida International University, Public relations and Advertising, Age of arrival 14
 Isabella Gonzalez, FL, Miami Dade College, Architecture, Age of arrival 11
 Isela Casarubias, NC, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Ismael Castillo, FL, Palm Beach State College, Political science, Age of arrival 13
 Ismarly Cesard, FL, Valencia College, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
 Israel Andrade, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Israel Longolamai, IL, Dominican University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 14
 Israel Ortiz, IL, National Louis University, Business Management, Age of arrival 4
 Issamar Ayala, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Itzel Bailon Fuentes, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Government, Age of arrival 9
 Itzel Barajas, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Sociology, Age of arrival 5
 Itzel Martinez Garcia, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration and Management, Age of arrival 3
 Itzel Sanchez, CA, San Jose State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Itzel Serrano, MA, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Itzel Wise, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Accountancy, Age of arrival 10

Itzuri Gomar, NC, Wingate University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Ivan Becerra Silveti, UT, University of Utah, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 5
 Ivan Santiago-Cruz, WI, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Ivan Vallejo, NJ, Rutgers University - Newark, Finance, Age of arrival 8
 Ivette Astudillo Javier, NY, Hunter College, Nutrition and Dietetics, Age of arrival 1
 Ivis Funez, NY, Queens College, Food Management Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Ivonne Valdez, FL, Purdue University Global (online), Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Jackelyn Hernandez, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Jackelyne Amaya, VA, George Mason University, Marketing, Age of arrival 5
 Jackson Jules, NJ, Rowan University, Dramatic Arts, Age of arrival 9
 Jacobo Flores, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Jacqueline Aguilar, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Public Administration, Age of arrival 10
 Jacqueline Delgado Catana, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Entrepreneurship, Age of arrival 3
 Jacqueline Portillo, VA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Business Administration/Accounting, Age of arrival 10
 Jade Canarillo Diaz, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Jaeny Lozano, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Business, Age of arrival 6
 Jahuira Gonzalez, SC, Delaware State University, Business Management, Age of arrival 13
 Jaime Cabrales Carlos, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Jair Ramirez, OR, Western Oregon University, Business, Age of arrival 7
 Jakhelin Cota, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Criminology, Age of arrival 6
 Jakub Dejko, NY, The City College of New York, Film Production, Age of arrival 13
 Jamesley Medina, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Finance, Age of arrival 7
 Jane Reyes, FL, University of Central Florida, Marketing, Age of arrival 6
 Janelle Walcott, FL, Valencia College, Nursing, Age of arrival 10
 Janet Serna, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 6
 Jannia Davalos, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Jannine Ramirez Gutierrez, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 2
 Jaqueline Romo, IL, Dominican University, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Jaquelyn De Santiago Maciel, NC, Wingate University, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Jarely Garcia, NY, SUNY Old Westbury, Childhood Education, Age of arrival 11
 Jasmin Gutierrez, CA, University of California Santa Barbara, Media Studies, Age of arrival 1
 Javier Favela, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Analytics, Age of arrival 4
 Javier Morales, UT, University of Utah, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Javier Silva, CA, Arizona State University, Communications, Age of arrival 6
 Javier Ubaldo, CA, San Jose State University, Education, Age of arrival 3
 Jazmin Flores, NC, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Jazmin Hernandez Garcia, IL, Dominican University, English, Age of arrival 6
 Jazmin Pedraza Cardenas, FL, Florida International University, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Jazmin Santiago, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Jazmin Villegas, NC, Wingate University, Business Management, Age of arrival 1
 Jean Baez, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Jefferson Diaz, GA, Christian Brothers University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Jefferson Rodriguez, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Science, Age of arrival 14
 Jeffrey Menjivar, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Automotive Technology, Age of arrival 10
 Jeidy Cruz, NC, Delaware State University, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 1
 Jenellia Noel, NY, Queensborough Community College, Undecided, Age of arrival 10
 Jenifer Mesa, NC, Wingate University, Accounting, Age of arrival 6
 Jeniffer Flores, NY, Gettysburg College, Economics, Age of arrival 6
 Jeniffer Serrano, NY, Baruch College, Finance and economics, Age of arrival 7
 Jeniffer Yaguachi, NY, Baruch College, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Jennifer Contreras, IL, Illinois College, Kinesiology - Exercise science, Age of arrival 1
 Jennifer Garcia Huerta, FL, University of Central Florida, Paralegal, Age of arrival 3
 Jennifer Hernandez, CA, Sonoma State University, Anthropology, Age of arrival 3
 Jennifer Lema, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 6
 Jennifer Lozoya, TX, University of Houston, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Jennifer Martinez Mercado, NY, Lehman College, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 5
 Jennifer Santos Lopez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 7
 Jennifer Sanz, FL, University of Central Florida, Exceptional Student Education (K-12), Age of arrival 6
 Jennifer Valenciano, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Jennifer Vargas, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 1
 Jennifer Hernandez Gaitan, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Jenny Garcia, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Accounting, Age of arrival 1

Jensy Matute Guifarro, TX, Florida International University, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Jeong Soo Lee, MA, Purdue University Global (online), Health science, Age of arrival 14
 Jeovana Roque-Vazquez, FL, University of South Florida, Communications, Age of arrival 2
 Jeraldin Leyva, NY, Medgar Evers College, Accounting, Age of arrival 6
 Jesse Zambrano, FL, Florida International University, Sustainability Studies, Age of arrival 4
 Jessenia Cisneros, FL, Florida International University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Jessica Flores, IL, Arripe College of Loyola University of Chicago, Sociology, Age of arrival 1
 Jessica Rogel, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 4
 Jessica Rosas, NY, Queens College, Medicine, Age of arrival 1
 Jessica Valdez, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Spanish, Age of arrival 6
 Jessy Arias, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Jesus Abraham Mendez Barreda, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Jesus Barrios, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Technology and Information Management, Age of arrival 1
 Jesus Cortez Lopez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Jesus Flores, NY, Queens College, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Jesus Garcia, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Business Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Jesus Hernandez, SC, Delaware State University, Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Jesus Herrera, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Jesus Navarro, NY, Hunter College, Medical Laboratory Science, Age of arrival 10
 Jesus Patino, NY, Hunter College, Urban Studies, Age of arrival 4
 Jesus Salinas, TX, University of Houston, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Jesus Tapia-Martinez, AZ, Arizona State University, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 4
 Jesus Valenzuela, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Jesus Vidal, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Jhandira Franco Campos, VA, Marymount University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Jharby Saravia, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 5
 Jhoan Victoria, FL, Mount Washington College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Jhoana Ocampo, IL, Dominican University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Jhojan Vargas Pozo, VA, George Mason University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Jhonny Cediel, NY, LaGuardia Community College, Software Developer, Age of arrival 10
 Jiessica Velasquez, FL, Miami Dade College, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 1
 Jimena Arreola Castro, NC, Delaware State University, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 5
 Jimena Maya, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Jimmy Guerra, CA, San Jose State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 7
 Jmarc Francois, NY, Brooklyn College, Physical Education, Age of arrival 5
 Joanel Nataren, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 12
 Joan Mikel Amaya, FL, University of Central Florida, Digital Media, Age of arrival 6
 Joan Ominata, MD, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Doctor, Age of arrival 10
 Joanna Villar Rivera, CO, University of Colorado Denver, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Jocelyn Chavez, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Jocelyn Hernandez Escobar, IL, Dominican University, Nursing, Age of arrival 13
 Jody-Ann Thomas, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Johana Pineda Torres, WI, Delaware State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Johana Sibri, NY, New York City College of Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Johanam Barcenas Salgado, GA, Delaware State University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 5
 Johann Hayag, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Entrepreneurship, Age of arrival 8
 Johanna Vasquez Coto, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 8
 Johnny Jean, FL, Florida International University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 4
 Jonathan Amastal, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 7
 Jonathan Castellanos Contreras, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Jonathan Cortez, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Jonathan Cruz Portillo, NC, Delaware State University, Aviation Administration, Age of arrival 15
 Jonathan Guzman, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Jonathan Paz, TX, University of Houston, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 6
 Jonathan Ramirez, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Communication Design, Age of arrival 1
 Jonathan Suconota, NY, Queens College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 10
 Jorge Alvizuers, IL, North Park University, Medicine, Age of arrival 2
 Jorge Espinoza Rivera, CA, San Jose State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Jorge Jimenez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Jorge Monzon Diaz, NY, The City College of New York, Applied Mathematics, Age of arrival 1
 Jorge Morales Munoz, CA, San Francisco State University, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Jorge Salazar Alarcon, FL, Florida International University, Political Science, Age of arrival 11

Jorge Velarde Reyes, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Jose Abraham Garcia Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Mathematical Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Jose Acosta, WA, George Mason University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Jose Alvear, CO, Colorado State University, Business Administration/Accounting, Age of arrival 2
 Jose Baltazar, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 3
 Jose Barajas Espinosa, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Jose Barrientos, TX, University of Houston, Political Science, Age of arrival 5
 Jose Bautista, FL, Florida International University, Human Resources, Age of arrival 1
 Jose Camacho Chavez, CA, San Jose State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Jose Carrera, FL, University of Central Florida, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 2
 Jose Cruz, TX, University of St. Thomas, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Jose Elisalde, IL, National Louis University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 7
 Jose Garcia, NJ, Purdue University Global (online), Real Estate, Age of arrival 10
 Jose Garcia, NY, Baruch College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Jose Guemez, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Jose Huertero, NY, Queens College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 7
 Jose Inestroza, TX, University of Houston, Economics, Age of arrival 11
 Jose Ivan Mendoza Castelan, NY, Kingsborough Community College, English, Age of arrival 3
 Jose Lara, GA, Oglethorpe University, Undecided, Age of arrival 2
 Jose Lopez, FL, Palm Beach State College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 12
 Jose Manuel Castro, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Criminology, Age of arrival 14
 Jose Marin, NY, The City College of New York, Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Jose Pacheco, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Jose Perez Mancera, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Jose Ramirez Reyes, OR, University of California-Merced, Political Science, Age of arrival 3
 Jose Rosas, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Age of arrival 2
 Jose Serna, IL, National Louis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Jose Verde Martinez, WI, Viterbo University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 2
 Jose Yengle, FL, University of Central Florida, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Joselin Garcia, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 4
 Joselin Pena Paredes, GA, Oglethorpe University, Physics, Age of arrival 1
 Joseline Dominguez, NY, Hunter College, Chemistry, Age of arrival 5
 Joselyn Espinal, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Joselyn Perez, NY, The City College of New York, Political science, Age of arrival 4
 Joseth Garcia - Calderon, GA, Delaware State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Joshua Lee, NY, Baruch College, Public Policy, Age of arrival 7
 Josselyn Montoya, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Josue Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Josue Hernandez Garcia, GA, Delaware State University, Business Management, Age of arrival 9
 Josue Martinez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Entrepreneurship, Age of arrival 2
 Josue Reyes Velasquez, NY, The City College of New York, Philosophy, Age of arrival 7
 Jovana Tavizon Ramirez, NJ, The City College of New York, Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Jovany Trujillo Avila, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Social Work, Age of arrival 9
 Juan Alonzo, AZ, Arizona State University, Aerospace Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Juan Arocha, FL, Florida International University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Juan Barrientos, TN, Christian Brothers University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Juan Bautista Lopez, GA, Christian Brothers University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Juan Bravo, IL, National Louis University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Juan Carlos Mateo Sanchez, AL, Eastern Connecticut State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 2
 Juan Chavez Garcia, AZ, Arizona State University, Accountancy, Age of arrival 1
 Juan Chavez Reynaga, IN, Delaware State University, Medicine, Age of arrival 8
 Juan Flores Zambrano, TX, University of Houston, Petroleum Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Juan Jose Andrade, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Speech-Language Pathology, Age of arrival 11
 Juan Macias, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Juan Pablo Torres Acosta, AZ, Arizona State University, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Juan Paniagua, NV, Nevada State College, Environmental Science, Age of arrival 1
 Juan Ramon De La Rama, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Juan Regalado, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Juan Rios, TX, University of Houston, Architecture, Age of arrival 4
 Juan Rubio Pulido, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 3
 Juan Sierra, FL, University of Central Florida, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 8
 Juan Torres, VA, Marymount University, Accounting, Age of arrival 9

Juana Iris Borrego Solis, IL, Dominican University, Psychology, Age of arrival 11
 Juana Mejia, FL, Palm Beach State College, Marketing, Age of arrival 1
 Juana Menjivar, MD, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Justice Studies, Age of arrival 3
 Juana Ramirez, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Juana Servin, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Juana Zamora, IL, Dominican University, Criminology, Age of arrival 4
 Judith De La Cruz, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Judith Navarro, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 4
 Judith Trejo, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Radiology Technician, Age of arrival 4
 Julia Honeyghan, NY, Queens College, Dietetics, Nutrition, Age of arrival 6
 Julia Jasinska, IL, North Central College, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Julian Supan, NY, Baruch College, Accounting, Age of arrival 8
 Juliana Echeverri, FL, Palm Beach State College, Business, Age of arrival 14
 Julieta Aguilar Constantino, TX, San Antonio College, Communication Design, Age of arrival 7
 Juliette Herrera, FL, Florida International University, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
 Julio Cesar Anguiano, IL, Arrupe College of Loyola University of Chicago, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Julio Gonzalez Pena, WA, University of Washington - Seattle, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Julio Maldonado, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Information Technology, Age of arrival 12
 Julio Quinonez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Julissa Martinez, FL, Florida International University, Business Administration/Finance, Age of arrival 7
 Justine Nava, NY, Hunter College, Undecided, Age of arrival 7
 Kai Martin, DC, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Undecided, Age of arrival 11
 Kanaka Sharon Venu, NY, Queens College, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 5
 Kaneita Marcelin, NY, Brooklyn College, Women's Studies, Age of arrival 8
 Karelly Trevino Medina, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Karen Baltazar, GA, Delaware State University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 5
 Karen Castro Castañeda, FL, Palm Beach State College, Criminology or law, Age of arrival 4
 Karen Caudillo, OR, University of Central Florida, Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Karen Godinez, UT, University of Utah, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Karen Guillen, TX, University of Houston, Teaching And Learning, Age of arrival 5
 Karen Martinez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Undecided, Age of arrival 5
 Karen Muniz, DE, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Karen Ramirez Torres, CA, Arizona State University, Law and Society, Age of arrival 6
 Karen Romero, IL, Arrupe College of Loyola University of Chicago, Business Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Karen Sanchez Echeverria, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Services Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Karen Velazquez Munoz, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Government and International Politics, Age of arrival 1
 Karina Escalante, FL, Miami Dade College, Business Administration/Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Karina Gonzalez, IL, National Louis University, Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 9
 Karina Hernandez, IL, Roosevelt University, Radiology Technician, Age of arrival 8
 Karina Lopez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Karina Mayo Trujillo, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Human Development, Age of arrival 1
 Karla Ariza, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Karla Camarillo Diaz, AZ, Arizona State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Karla Castaneda, TX, University of Houston, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Karla Coca, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 3
 Karla Galiano Herrera, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 4
 Karla Gonzalez, AZ, Arizona State University, Anthropology, Age of arrival 3
 Karla Luzardo, FL, University of Central Florida, Law, Age of arrival 12
 Karla Núñez Pérez, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Public Health, Age of arrival 7
 Karla Ortega, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Political Science, Age of arrival 3
 Karla Padilla, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 4
 Karla Rosado, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Political science, Age of arrival 1
 Karla Sanchez, TN, Christian Brothers University, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 5
 Karla Sorto, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Public Health, Age of arrival 12
 Karla Suarez, GA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biochemistry, Age of arrival 2
 Karla Urbina, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Chemistry, Age of arrival 13
 Karla Zepeda Ramirez, FL, University of Central Florida, General Studies, Age of arrival 7
 Kassandra Flores, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 2
 Katherine De Santiago Mendoza, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Katherine Dominguez, NY, The City College of New York, Education, Age of arrival 5
 Katherine Escalante, SD, Eastern Connecticut State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Katherine Fernin, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 3

Katherine Zecena Medina, TX, University of Houston, Biology, Age of arrival 10
 Kathryn Retana, NJ, Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Communications, Age of arrival 6
 Kathryn Wakefield-Guerra, FL, University of South Florida, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 11
 Kathia Crispin, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Accounting, Age of arrival 5
 Kathleen Plata Castro, CO, Community College of Denver, Paralegal, Age of arrival 8
 Kathryn Pulley, IL, Roosevelt University, Biology, Age of arrival 14
 Katya Chirinos Paz, SC, Christian Brothers University, Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Kayfa Santos Corbin, MA, Purdue University Global (online), Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Keidy López, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Communications, Age of arrival 10
 Keila Lopez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 3
 Keila Lucero, AZ, Phoenix College, Business, Age of arrival 12
 Keila Strachan, FL, University of Central Florida, Hospitality Industry, Age of arrival 6
 Keiry Mendez, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Elementary Education, Age of arrival 2
 Keiry Perea Rascon, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Human Services, Age of arrival 1
 Keisy Arrieta, TX, University of Houston, Marketing, Age of arrival 10
 Kelly Beltran, IL, National Louis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Kelly Laguerre, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Kelly Vallery, FL, Broward College, Undecided, Age of arrival 10
 Kendy Villa, IL, National Louis University, Criminal Justice Administration, Age of arrival 6
 Kenia Alvarez, IL, Roosevelt University, Computer and Information Systems Security, Age of arrival 1
 Kenia Garcia, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 3
 Kenia Quinteros, NY, SUNY Old Westbury, Accounting, Age of arrival 14
 Kenia Rodriguez, IL, North Park University, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 3
 Keren Martinez Cortez, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Kerry Chavarria Gonzalez, NC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Kerstin Barrios, FL, Palm Beach State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Kevin Araya Rojas, TN, Christian Brothers University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 1
 Kevin Avila, FL, Miami Dade College, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Kevin Carrillo, NY, New York City College of Technology, Biotechnology, Age of arrival 8
 Kevin Ceja, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Business Administration and Management, Age of arrival 9
 Kevin Escobar Urrutia, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Mathematics Education, Age of arrival 9
 Kevin Esquivel, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Human Resources Management, Age of arrival 1
 Kevin Gutierrez, GA, Delaware State University, Mass Communications and Media Studies, Age of arrival 8
 Kevin Loyola, NY, Hunter College, Sales and Marketing, Age of arrival 1
 Kevin Melecio, VA, George Mason University, Business Information Systems, Age of arrival 3
 Kevin Nuñez-Salmeron, TX, Northeastern Illinois University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 7
 Kevin Torres Saldivar, NY, Hunter College, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Kevyn Jimenez, FL, Miami Dade College, Construction, Age of arrival 5
 Keyla Guaman, NY, Kingsborough Community College, early childhood education, Age of arrival 11
 Keyla Umana, NY, LaGuardia Community College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Keylin Huet, FL, Miami Dade College, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 2
 Keyra Osorio, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Biology, Age of arrival 11
 Khaolah Obahi, MI, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Khrysta De Guzman, NJ, Rowan University, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Kimberly Sanchez, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Marketing, Age of arrival 14
 Kinssy Bautista, NY, The City College of New York, Public Health, Age of arrival 14
 Kirti Sahadeo, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 11
 Krishtham Granados, IN, Florida International University, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Krunal Patel, NY, New York City College of Technology, Technology and Information Management, Age of arrival 11
 Krystal Stevens, CA, Lehman College, Business Administration/Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Laiba Asif, TX, University of Houston, Computer Science, Age of arrival 10
 Laisha Arlin Garcia Cruz, NC, Wingate University, Human Services, Age of arrival 2
 Lamy Wasso, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Nursing, Age of arrival 8
 Larissa Osorio, CA, San Jose State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Laura Aguilar Marina, TX, University at Albany, Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Laura Aguilar Marquez, CO, Colorado State University, Toxicology, Age of arrival 7
 Laura Aristizabal, IL, Lewis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 12
 Laura Caicedo, NY, Lehman College, Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Laura Coache, FL, Miami Dade College, Dental Hygienist, Age of arrival 6
 Laura Dutra, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 2
 Laura Garcia, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 2
 Laura Hernandez, GA, Delaware State University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 5

Laura Lopez, NC, Wingate University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Laura Marquez, IL, North Park University, Psychology, Age of arrival 9
 Laura Ramirez Sosa, NY, New York City College of Technology, Nursing, Age of arrival 13
 Laura Reyes, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Information Systems, Age of arrival 9
 Laura Saavedra, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Laura Silva, FL, University of Central Florida, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Layla Mayorga, NY, University of Houston, Philosophy, Age of arrival 1
 Leidy Diana Falcon Arias, AZ, Arizona State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Lemuel Ignacio, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Supply Chain And Marketing Science, Age of arrival 4
 Lenin Munoz, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Leonardo Sandoval, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Leonardo Sosa Cotrina, FL, Florida International University, Doctor, Age of arrival 4
 Leonardo Velasco, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Leonel Mata, TX, University of Houston, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 12
 Leslie Candelario, FL, Florida International University, Marketing, Age of arrival 8
 Leslie Cornejo, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Digital Media Art, Age of arrival 6
 Leslie Dimas Varela, IL, National Louis University, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Leslie Gallegos, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Criminal Justice and Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Leslie Montes, CA, San Jose State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Leslie Rodriguez, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Finance, Age of arrival 11
 Lesly Shicay, NY, Baruch College, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 3
 Leslye Alvidrez, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 8
 Leslye Morales, NY, Lehman College, Social Work, Age of arrival 1
 Lesslie Maldonado Arenivas, NV, Nevada State College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Leticia Hernandez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Leticia Lamas, VA, Purdue University Global (online), Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Letisol Mendez, FL, Miami Dade College, Radio TV Broadcasting, Age of arrival 4
 Lidia Labrada, GA, Oglethorpe University, Legal Studies, Age of arrival 1
 Lih Khang Lee, NY, Baruch College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 9
 Liliana Velarde, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 5
 Linda Munoz, CT, York College, Accounting, Age of arrival 7
 Lindsay Samayoa, NV, Nevada State College, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Lisa Cho, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 8
 Lisandro Mauro De Jesus, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Information Technology, Age of arrival 2
 Litzy Cabrera Cabrera, NV, Nevada State College, Pre-Nursing, Age of arrival 2
 Litzy Lopez, IL, National Louis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Lizbeidy Najera, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 13
 Lizbeth Bolanos Maldonado, NY, New York City College of Technology, Communication Design, Age of arrival 3
 Lizbeth Cisneros Bernal, GA, Christian Brothers University, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Lizbeth Garcia, GA, Christian Brothers University, Business Admin/International Business, Age of arrival 1
 Lizbeth Garcia, TX, University of Houston, Education-Music, Age of arrival 1
 Lizbeth Mendez, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Political Science, Age of arrival 3
 Lizbeth Segura, GA, Oglethorpe University, Phlebotomist, Age of arrival 1
 Lizbeth V. NV, Nevada State College, Deaf Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Lizeth Garcia Duran, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Lizzie Bilogo Nguema, FL, University of South Florida, Accounting, Age of arrival 9
 Lluvia Farias Alvarado, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Lorena Gonzalez, MI, Purdue University Global (online), Undecided, Age of arrival 15
 Lorraine Ruiz, TX, University of Houston, Environmental Science, Age of arrival 8
 Luca Xia, NY, Queens College, Communication Sciences and Disorders, Age of arrival 13
 Lucero Borjas Hernandez, GA, Oglethorpe University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Lucero Grado, IL, Dominican University, Sociology, Age of arrival 3
 Lucero Saavedra, NY, The City College of New York, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 13
 Luciana Soula, FL, Florida International University, Mass Communications and Media Studies, Age of arrival 8
 Lucy Canales, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Health Care Management, Age of arrival 2
 Luigui Di Maggio, IL, National Louis University, Business Administration and Management, Age of arrival 3
 Luis Acosta, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Business Economics, Age of arrival 14
 Luis Aguilar, IL, Dominican University, Informatics, Age of arrival 2
 Luis Avila-Alvarez, IL, Illinois College, Education, Age of arrival 1
 Luis Bravo, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Luis C Coronado Vasquez, AZ, Arizona State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 5
 Luis Garcia, IL, North Park University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 7

Luis Martinez, SC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Luis Olvera, UT, Western Oregon University, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Luis Pérez Ocaña, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Computer Science, Age of arrival 5
 Luis Perez, VA, George Mason University, Information Technology, Age of arrival 3
 Luis Rivas, CA, Sonoma State University, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Luis Tejeda Ortiz, NY, The City College of New York, Biochemical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Luis Tufino, TX, University of Houston, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Luis Ursua, RI, Arizona State University, Biology, Age of arrival 5
 Luis Zaragoza, OR, George Mason University, Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Lumari Sosa, NY, Brooklyn College, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Luno Solana, NC, Delaware State University, Forensic Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Luz Almonte, NY, College of Staten Island, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Luzyanne Ballesteros, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Agriculture Environmental and Sustainable Sciences, Age of arrival 12
 Madelyn Del Valle, NY, Farmingdale State College, Science, Technology, and Society, Age of arrival 2
 Madiha Ahmed, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, International Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 9
 Magaly Gutierrez, TX, University of Houston, Integrated Business, Age of arrival 5
 Magaly Nieto, TX, San Antonio College, Communications, Age of arrival 1
 Maimouna Diop, NY, Brooklyn College, Sociology, Age of arrival 4
 Malick Shariff, PA, Cabrini University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 15
 Mamadou Diakite, GA, Delaware State University, Agriculture, Age of arrival 2
 Manuel Martinez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 14
 Manuel Mejia, TX, University of Houston, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Manuel Quijada, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Manuel Tello, AZ, Arizona State University, Business Communications, Age of arrival 1
 Manuel Vargas Rojas, CO, Community College of Denver, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 1
 Marcela Ruiz, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Marketing Specialist, Age of arrival 10
 Marcelino Villegas, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Architecture, Age of arrival 2
 Marco Acuna Guzman, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 6
 Marco Duran Pimentel, VA, George Mason University, Film Arts, Age of arrival 12
 Marcos Castillo, MO, Delaware State University, Physical Education, Age of arrival 8
 Marcos Godínez Hernández, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 13
 Marcos Toxqui Valencia, AZ, Arizona State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 14
 Margarita Amaro, FL, Valencia College, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Acosta, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Business Education, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Alanis, IL, National Louis University, Psychology, Age of arrival 6
 Maria Benitez, AZ, Arizona State University, Pre-medicine, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Bucio, IL, National Louis University, Social Work, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Cano, NV, Nevada State College, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Carbajal, NY, Farmingdale State College, Construction Management, Age of arrival 11
 Maria Castaneda, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Social Work & Social Services, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Cazares, NY, LaGuardia Community College, Radiology Technician, Age of arrival 6
 Maria Ceballos, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Cervantes Garcia, DE, Delaware State University, Chemistry, Age of arrival 6
 Maria Cespedes, FL, Florida International University, Marketing, Age of arrival 2
 Maria Clara Santos Veloso, CT, Southern Connecticut State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 14
 Maria Cruz, GA, Oglethorpe University, Communications, Age of arrival 4
 Maria D Pacheco, FL, Florida International University, Accounting, Age of arrival 13
 Maria Diaz, NY, The City College of New York, Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Maria Dominguez, IL, Dominican University, Political Science, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Dos Santos, FL, University of Central Florida, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 14
 Maria Duran, IL, Northern Illinois University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Fernanda Alvarez Vazquez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Fernanda Avila Camargo, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 13
 Maria Fonseca, NC, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Doctor, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Garcia, AZ, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Political Science, Age of arrival 2
 Maria Gonzalez, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Gonzalez, MO, Delaware State University, Public Health, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Gonzalez, NY, New York University, Social Work, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Jerez, NY, Baruch College, Data Science, Age of arrival 8
 Maria Johnson, NC, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Jose Granados Frias, FL, Florida International University, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 2

Maria Martinez, FL, Purdue University Global (online), Accounting, Age of arrival 15
 Maria Mena-Morales, SC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Munguia- Lopez, FL, University of South Florida, Criminology, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Nava, IL, National Louis University, Communications, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Pimentel, NY, Hunter College, Human Resources, Age of arrival 11
 Maria Quezada, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Razo, IL, Illinois College, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Maria Rivera, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Advertising, Age of arrival 5
 Maria Ruiz, GA, Oglethorpe University, Accounting, Age of arrival 9
 Maria Sanchez, SC, Purdue University Global (online), Business Management, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Sandoval, GA, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 12
 Maria Solache Nava, GA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biochemistry, Age of arrival 2
 Maria Soto, CA, San Francisco State University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 9
 Maria Tinoco, FL, Florida International University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Maria Trejo Rodriguez, NM, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Public Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Maria U, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Maria Valencia, TX, University of Houston, Accounting, Age of arrival 6
 Mariali Luna Perez, GA, Purdue University Global (online), Business Management, Age of arrival 8
 Marilan Lontop, FL, Western Oregon University, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 2
 Mariana Aguirre, NY, Lehman College, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Mariana Colin Flores, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Mariana Garcia, CO, Colorado School of Mines, Computer Science, Age of arrival 4
 Mariana Hernández, NY, The City College of New York, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 12
 Mariana Jorge, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Marketing, Age of arrival 4
 Mariana Martinez, IL, Dominican University, Marketing Specialist, Age of arrival 8
 Mariana Padron, TX, University of Houston, Construction Management, Age of arrival 2
 Mariana Ramirez, NC, Delaware State University, Social Work, Age of arrival 4
 Mariana Reyes, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 5
 Maricruz Hernandez M, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Justice Studies, Age of arrival 1
 Marie Julie Labardy, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Informatics and Information Management, Age of arrival 3
 Marie Petit Homme, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Mariel Lantero, FL, Valencia College, Business and Organizational Leadership, Age of arrival 4
 Marifer Santos, NY, Hunter College, Education, Age of arrival 1
 Marilyn Garcia, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 3
 Marilyn Oliva-Rivas, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Political Science, Age of arrival 6
 Marina Chaparro-Tapia, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Mario Cotrina, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 13
 Mario Fernandez Lopez, FL, University of Central Florida, Business Administration, Age of arrival 11
 Mario Garcia Mata, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Public Health, Age of arrival 14
 Mario Salas, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Accounting, Age of arrival 10
 Mario Sorto Reyes, NY, Baruch College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Marisol Castro, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Government, Age of arrival 2
 Marisol Park (Lucio), TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Human Services Mental Health, Age of arrival 12
 Marisol Romero, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Forensic Science, Age of arrival 2
 Marius Zavistanavicius, AZ, University of Illinois at Chicago, Engineering Physics, Age of arrival 2
 Maria Pereda Gonzalez, IL, Lewis University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Marlena Polski, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Accountancy, Age of arrival 15
 Marlene Brown, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Mathematics, Age of arrival 6
 Marlene Moran, TX, University of Houston, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Marlene Garcia, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Criminal justice, Age of arrival 1
 Marlon Garcia-Aguilar, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Digital Arts, Age of arrival 1
 Marlon Licmann, NC, Purdue University Global (online), Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 9
 Marnee Ostoa, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Sociology, Age of arrival 5
 Marta Luna, NY, Queensborough Community College, Health science, Age of arrival 11
 Martha Franco Quiroz, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Sociology, Age of arrival 1
 Martha Mena, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 1
 Martha Ortiz Lopez, OR, Portland State University, Criminology And Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 2
 Martha Tenesaca, NY, New York City College of Technology, Hospitality Management, Age of arrival 8
 Marthayn Johnson, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Political Science, Age of arrival 7
 Martin Cortez, AZ, Arizona State University, Organizational Leadership, Age of arrival 1
 Martin Ruiz, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 3
 Martine Montas, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 9

Marvin Argueta, NY, Baruch College, Technology Risk Consultant - Financial Services, Age of arrival 7
 Marvin Cabrera, NY, Farmingdale State College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 2
 Maryelid King Guzman, MA, Lehman College, Political science, Age of arrival 5
 Mashrafe Alam, NY, New York City College of Technology, Architecture, Age of arrival 8
 Matilde Delgado-Garcia, NY, LaGuardia Community College, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 7
 Mauricio Ramirez, IL, University of Central Florida, Finance, Age of arrival 8
 Mauro Capriles Citi, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, History, Age of arrival 9
 Mayck Minoche, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Mayer Estinville, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 7
 Mayer Torres, NY, Hunter College, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Mayra Arriaga, IL, Dominican University, Public and Social Services, Age of arrival 1
 Mayra Baltazar, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Science, Age of arrival 13
 Mayra De La Torre Garcia, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Mechanical Engineering Technology, Age of arrival 2
 Mayra Ibarra Nunez, FL, George Mason University, Accountancy, Age of arrival 5
 Mayra Torres, OR, Western Oregon University, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 2
 Mayra Valdez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Political Science, Age of arrival 4
 Maytee Guadiana Cervantes, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Biology Pre-Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Mehdi Majumder, NY, Brooklyn College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Melanie Aguirre, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Journalism, Age of arrival 3
 Melanie Aragon- Silva, NV, Nevada State College, Business Administration/Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Melanie Medrano, CT, Grand Canyon University, Justice Studies, Age of arrival 5
 Melanie Rivera, TX, University of Houston, Nutrition, Age of arrival 3
 Melanny Buitron, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Melany Bustamante, VA, George Mason University, International Studies, Age of arrival 4
 Melany Garcia, NC, Wingate University, Criminal Justice and Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Melery Guerra, FL, Broward College, Health Science, Age of arrival 9
 Melisa Galvan, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Melissa Cetoute, NY, York College, Sociology, Age of arrival 9
 Melissa Gonzalez, FL, Florida International University, Psychology, Age of arrival 6
 Melissa Mora, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Melissa Perez Luna, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Melissa Perez, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 4
 Melissa Sandoval, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Melvin Santos, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 13
 Merari Patraça, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 11
 Mercy Retana Ho, CA, Sonoma State University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 5
 Mery Licona Roman, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Merylyn Acosta, NY, College of Staten Island, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 10
 Mi Yang Chang, NY, Queens College, Undecided, Age of arrival 15
 Mia Montes, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 7
 Micaela Lucero, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Law and Society, Age of arrival 3
 Michael Bonilla, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 7
 Michael Tan, NY, Hunter College, Physician's Assistant, Age of arrival 3
 Michel Santos, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Economics, Finance, Age of arrival 3
 Michelle Gonzalez Diaz, NY, New York City College of Technology, Architectural Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Michelle Najera, NY, Queens College, Art History, Age of arrival 2
 Michelle Ortiz Ramirez, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Michelle Pleytez, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Michelle Rodriguez Suarez, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Physician's Assistant, Age of arrival 4
 Miguel Hernandez, CA, University of California Santa Barbara, Education, Age of arrival 2
 Miguel Hurtado, FL, Valencia College, Business, Age of arrival 7
 Miguel Nieves Hernandez, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Miguel Palacios Maldonado, FL, Florida International University, Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Miguel Pascual, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 11
 Miguel Rafael Diaz Uraga, NY, The City College of New York, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Miguel Silva Marquez, AZ, Arizona State University, Forensic Science, Age of arrival 1
 Mik Mieczkowski, IL, Northern Illinois University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Mike Jonathan, IL, Broward College, Technology and Information Management, Age of arrival 10
 Mildred Flores, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Mileny Escobar, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Milton Delgado, UT, Weber State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Milton Martinez, NY, Hunter College, Political Science, Age of arrival 8

Miranda Araujo, IL, Illinois College, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
 Miriam Barcenas, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Journalism, Age of arrival 5
 Miriam Heligio Alejandro, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Education, Age of arrival 13
 Miriam Vaca, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Business Analytics, Age of arrival 7
 Mirkan Orzuna, NY, Lehman College, Health Services Administration, Age of arrival 5
 Mirna Macedo, AZ, Arizona State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 1
 Mirna Martinez Penate, VA, George Mason University, Social Work, Age of arrival 4
 Mirna Roque, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Miryam Matute Roca, NY, The City College of New York, Medical Assistant, Age of arrival 3
 Misael Martínez, NJ, Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Human Resources Management, Age of arrival 6
 Mitanshi Chaudhari, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Moises Guzman Lopez, AZ, Arizona State University, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 1
 Monica Cordova, NY, Farmingdale State College, Bioscience, Age of arrival 3
 Monica Jimenez jaimes, IL, North Central College, Justice Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Monica Santiago Javier, NC, Delaware State University, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
 Monica Sarabia, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 4
 Monica Tomijos, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration and Management, Age of arrival 9
 Monique Myhulots, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Health Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Monserrat Rosales, AZ, Northern Arizona University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 15
 Monserrat Lopez, NV, Nevada State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Monserrat Guerrero Garcia, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Business Administration and Management, Age of arrival 4
 Montserrat Santillan-Rodriguez, FL, University of Central Florida, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
 Muhammad Kamran, NY, Baruch College, Associate liberal arts & sciences B.B.A soon, Age of arrival 5
 Murilo Alves, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Doctor, Age of arrival 3
 Myrna Moreno, AZ, Arizona State University, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Nadia Boeta, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Social Work, Age of arrival 3
 Nahely Karina Martinez Torres, NE, Purdue University Global (online), Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Nahuel Simonelli, FL, University of Central Florida, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 2
 Naibi Valenzuela Uzeta, AZ, Phoenix College, Biomedical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
 Naidelin Chacon, UT, Weber State University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 12
 Najwa Aleem, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Undecided, Age of arrival 8
 Nakamol Thongkum, IL, University of Illinois at Chicago, Business Administration, Age of arrival 15
 Nanci Avalos Omana, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Social Work, Age of arrival 4
 Nancy Flores Escobar, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Nancy Laguna, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Nancy Rodriguez, TX, University of Houston, Architecture, Age of arrival 2
 Naomi Peregrina, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Nasreen Espinoza, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Natali Ramos, FL, Florida International University, Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Natali Tamez, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Psychology, Age of arrival 7
 Natalia Galarza, CT, Southern Connecticut State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 9
 Natalia Perez, TX, University of Houston, History, Age of arrival 3
 Natalia Rodriguez, NY, Baruch College, Accounting, Age of arrival 12
 Nataly Flores, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 2
 Nataly Hernandez, IL, North Central College, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Nathan Tomlinson, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance and Banking, Age of arrival 9
 Natienna Brown, FL, Purdue University Global (online), Social Sciences, Age of arrival 14
 Nawshin Islam, NY, York College, Marketing, Age of arrival 2
 Nayeli Garcia Solis, DE, Delaware State University, Forensic Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Nayeli Laureano, NV, Nevada State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Nayeli Nunez Cruz, PA, Delaware State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Nayelli Rico Lopez, NV, Nevada State College, Communication Design, Age of arrival 2
 Nayelly Freire, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Physics, Age of arrival 1
 Neha Kumar, NY, Hunter College, Doctor, Age of arrival 13
 Neldan Edward, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Nely Allen, TX, University of Houston, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Nerea Salgado, NJ, Rutgers University - New Brunswick, Animal Science, Age of arrival 3
 Nestor Vazquez, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Psychology, Age of arrival 14
 Nicaise Bruno, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Informatics and Information Management, Age of arrival 14
 Nicole Aponte Milla, FL, University of Central Florida, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Nicole Cruz, FL, Miami Dade College, Undecided, Age of arrival 12
 Nicole Gonzalez, TX, University of Houston, Marketing, Age of arrival 1

Nicole Maldonado Montecinos, VA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Special Education, Age of arrival 3
 Nishi Jungiwalla, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Communications, Age of arrival 8
 Noadia Saint-Louis, VA, George Mason University, Undecided, Age of arrival 12
 Noe Cuadra, MD, George Mason University, Business Management, Age of arrival 7
 Noemi Gonzalez, CO, Colorado State University, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 7
 Noemi Reyes, TN, Christian Brothers University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Nour Kalbouneh, WI, Eastern Connecticut State University, Political Science, Age of arrival 5
 Octavio Tochimani cid, VA, Virginia Tech, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Ode Balan, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health science, Age of arrival 10
 Olga M Lainez, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Criminal Justice Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Oliver Aquino, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
 Oliver Hernandez Santana, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Sports Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Oliva Murillo, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Management, Age of arrival 12
 Omar Castanon, TX, University of Houston, Communications, Age of arrival 3
 Omar Matis, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 14
 Omolara Olorunpomi, NJ, New Jersey City University, Nursing, Age of arrival 15
 Onyinyechukwu Igwillloh, NJ, New Jersey City University, Marketing, Age of arrival 12
 Oscar Aguirre, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 6
 Oscar Romero-Romero, VA, George Mason University, Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 9
 Oscar Zenteno, GA, Christian Brothers University, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 4
 Osiris Lopez Perez, FL, Valencia College, Accounting, Age of arrival 12
 Osiris Ramirez, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Criminology, Age of arrival 6
 Osiris Vela, IL, National Louis University, Applied Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 8
 Osneyda Escamilla, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Bilingual Education, Age of arrival 2
 Pablo Corona, CO, Colorado State University, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Paola Campos, TN, Christian Brothers University, Biology, Age of arrival 4
 Paola Casco, OR, Western Oregon University, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 14
 Paola Chavez Garcia, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Criminal Justice and Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Paola Gomez Velazquez, IL, Dominican University, Criminology, Age of arrival 1
 Paola Gonzalez Castnita, TX, University of Houston, Mathematics, Age of arrival 1
 Paola Gonzalez, NY, Brooklyn College, Mental Health Counseling, Age of arrival 5
 Paola Lopez, IL, Dominican University, Informatics, Age of arrival 6
 Paola Martinez, AR, University of Houston, Accounting, Age of arrival 1
 Paola Osorio, MA, Purdue University Global (online), Marketing, Age of arrival 8
 Paola Rivera, PA, Cabrini University, Marketing, Age of arrival 4
 Paola Sanchez Lugo, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Business Management, Age of arrival 2
 Paola Velasco, TX, University of Houston, Finance and Banking, Age of arrival 3
 Patrice Eugene, PA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Area, Ethnic, Cultural & Gender Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Patricia A Garcia Vargas, IL, National Louis University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 13
 Patricia Garcia Vargas, IL, National Louis University, early childhood education, Age of arrival 14
 Patrycia Piskowski, IL, Dominican University, Law and Legal Studies, Age of arrival 7
 Paula Arteaga, FL, Mount Washington College, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 7
 Paula Juarez-Antonio, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Health Services, Age of arrival 5
 Paula Martina, FL, Florida International University, Physical Therapy, Age of arrival 1
 Paulette Olivas, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 2
 Paulie Hyppolite, FL, Valencia College, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Paulina Arjona, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Marketing and Advertising, Age of arrival 2
 Paulina Rosales, IL, Dominican University, Special Education, Age of arrival 5
 Pedro Barilari, FL, Purdue University Global (online), Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 11
 Pedro Gerald, NJ, Rowan University, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Perla Bello Hernandez, SC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Business Administration, Age of arrival 6
 Perla Escandon, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 15
 Perla Garcia Damian, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Nursing, Age of arrival 3
 Perla Juarez, TX, University of Texas-El Paso, Nursing, Age of arrival 13
 Peta-Jan Wanliss, NY, Hunter College, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 6
 Phanise Policard, FL, Valencia College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 4
 Phelisse Gonzales, NY, Hunter College, Medical Assistant, Age of arrival 8
 Pinita Alegre Mai, FL, Miami Dade College, Agriculture, Age of arrival 15
 Pranjal Ghendand, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Precious Anozie, LA, Purdue University Global (online), Health Science, Age of arrival 12
 Prisila Sanchez, OR, Portland State University, Finance, Age of arrival 6
 Priya Parmessar, NY, Queens College, Urban Studies, Age of arrival 6

Punnawit Rinnasak, NY, The City College of New York, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
Punsta Sriwachirawat, NV, Nevada State College, Biology, Age of arrival 3
Qendrim Shala, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 3
Rachad Mapp, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Management, Age of arrival 2
Radiya Mohamed, NY, Queens College, Graphic Design, Age of arrival 9
Rafael Arce, ID, Christian Brothers University, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 7
Rafaela Jean Louis, FL, Broward College, International Business, Age of arrival 11
Ramon Gallego Zarate, AZ, Northern Arizona University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
Ramon Humberto Nunez Serrano, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 4
Raquel Teixeira, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 3
Raul Yahuitl, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 8
Raydy Espinal Rodriguez, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 10
Rebeca Cordova, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Business, Age of arrival 2
Rebecca Morales, TX, University of Houston, Marketing, Age of arrival 6
Regina Bravo-Ortiz, NC, Purdue University Global (online), Emergency Medical Services, Age of arrival 5
Reina Banda, NC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biology, Age of arrival 2
Renata Garcia, IN, Delaware State University, Political science, Age of arrival 1
Renato García Torres, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
Rey Camacho, IL, North Park University, Nursing, Age of arrival 10
Reyna Valdivias, NV, Nevada State College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
Reyna Ventura, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Political Science, Age of arrival 9
Ricardo Anas, VA, George Mason University, Business Management Accounting, Age of arrival 13
Ricardo Rocha Gonzalez, SC, Christian Brothers University, Accounting, Age of arrival 4
Richberth Nelson, FL, Miami Dade College, Psychology, Age of arrival 12
Richeley Cajuste, FL, Palm Beach State College, Biological Sciences, Age of arrival 11
Ritzi Gabarrete, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
Rocio Castaneda, AZ, Arizona State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 6
Rocio Martinez, IL, North Park University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
Rodrigo Arcia Espinoza, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 13
Rodrigo Cespedes, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
Rodrigo Choque Mejia, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 1
Rodrigo Martinez, IL, University of California-Merced, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 4
Rolando Nunez Espinoza, GA, Oglethorpe University, Media Studies, Age of arrival 3
Roma Patel, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Finance, Age of arrival 4
Roosevelt Varela Castillo, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Health science, Age of arrival 10
Rosa Galdamez, VA, Marymount University, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
Rosa Gomez Escoto, NY, Baruch College, Computer and Information Systems Security, Age of arrival 5
Rosa Padilla, IL, Dominican University, Sociology, Age of arrival 2
Rothschild Toussaint, NJ, Miami Dade College, International Relations, Age of arrival 9
Roxana Ramirez, NY, Marymount University, Radiology Technician, Age of arrival 7
Roxany Mejia, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
Roxine Rattray, GA, Oglethorpe University, Biology, Age of arrival 5
Ruben Bonilla, PA, Cabrini University, Biology, Age of arrival 1
Ruben Mercado Santos, IL, University of Central Florida, Doctor, Age of arrival 6
Ruben Vanega, TX, University of Houston, Supply Chain Management, Age of arrival 4
Ruben Véliz Alday, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
Rubi Ramirez Vega, MO, Eastern Connecticut State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 6
Rut Barragan, FL, Broward College, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
Ruth Mancía Maldonado, FL, Palm Beach State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 8
Ruth Sanchez, FL, Valencia College, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 10
Ruthline Augustave, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 1
Saad Khalil, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Marketing Specialist, Age of arrival 1
Sabina Argueta, AZ, Arizona State University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 5
Sabrina Dagher, AZ, Arizona State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 7
Sabrina Martins, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
Sadhana Singh, VA, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Communications, Age of arrival 13
Sahian Altamirano, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Nursing, Age of arrival 5
Saida Chavez, NV, Nevada State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 3
Saidy Valle, OR, Western Oregon University, Marketing, Age of arrival 5
Saira Galindo Vazquez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Elementary Education, Age of arrival 4
Saira Hernandez, IL, National Louis University, Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 2
Saira Martinez, TN, Christian Brothers University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2

Saleh Junnun, NY, The City College of New York, Biology, Age of arrival 12
 Salma Villegas, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Salomon Pirin, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 15
 Salvador Beltran Ruelas, MI, Arizona State University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Salvador Jimenez, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Sam Pacheco, AZ, Benedictine University - Mesa, Data Science, Age of arrival 1
 Samantha Newell, NY, Queensborough Community College, Health Sciences, Age of arrival 2
 Samuel De Santiago, FL, University of Central Florida, Information Technology, Age of arrival 13
 Samuel Perez Lopez, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, English, Age of arrival 2
 Samuel Villatoro-Palma, FL, Florida International University, Finance, Age of arrival 3
 Samuella Koxyn, TX, University of Houston, Biotechnology, Age of arrival 3
 Sandra Darianna Quiñonez, IL, North Park University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Sandra Garcia Torres, OR, Western Oregon University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Sandra Garcia, NY, Hunter College, Language Interpretation and Translation, Age of arrival 7
 Sandra Maldonado Ortiz, NC, Christian Brothers University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Sandra Montoya, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Sandra Pineda, TX, University of South Florida, Veterinary, Age of arrival 8
 Sandra Quiñonez, IL, North Park University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Sandra Torres, IL, National Louis University, Education, Age of arrival 4
 Sandra Villegas, TX, El Centro College, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Santiago Flores Salgado, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Management, Age of arrival 1
 Santiago Herrera San Martin, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Environmental Science, Age of arrival 11
 Santiago Penuelas Caudillo, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Santana Williams, NY, Lehman College, Special Education, Age of arrival 7
 Sara Castro, TX, University of Houston, Nutrition and Dietetics, Age of arrival 12
 Sara Dominguez, KS, Purdue University Global (online), Health Care Administration, Age of arrival 9
 Sara Ocampo, IN, Purdue University Global (online), Organizational Leadership, Age of arrival 9
 Sarahi Tremillo, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 2
 Sarahi Velazquez, NY, Baruch College, Psychology, Age of arrival 12
 Sarai Duenas, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Saray Rodriguez, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Interdisciplinary Studies, Age of arrival 5
 Saul Alegria Ortega, IN, Delaware State University, Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Sayra De La Pena, TX, University of Houston, Management Information Systems, Age of arrival 1
 Sayra Lopez, DC, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Health Services Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Sayuri Jimenez, AR, Arkansas Tech University, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Sayuri Vasquez, NY, SUNY Old Westbury, Childhood Education, Age of arrival 2
 Sayury Macias Robles, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 1
 Scarlet Cambar, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Social Work, Age of arrival 3
 Scarlet Figueroa, FL, Florida International University, Public Health, Age of arrival 7
 Schnay Louis, FL, Broward College, Social Work, Age of arrival 10
 Sebastian Castillo Moreno, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Sebastian Gonzalez, FL, Florida International University, Nursing, Age of arrival 11
 Selen Burciaga, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Selena Singh, NY, Hunter College, English Literature, Age of arrival 7
 Sergio Armenta, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Sergio Granados, SC, Delaware State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 1
 Sergio Leal Garcia, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Business Management, Age of arrival 13
 Sergio Reyes Montes, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Communication Arts, Age of arrival 3
 Shakerah Shaw, FL, University of Central Florida, Health Science, Age of arrival 6
 Shaoqin Li, NY, The City College of New York, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 12
 Shaqui Jones, NJ, Queens College, Data Science, Age of arrival 6
 Sheily Izaguirre, FL, Miami Dade College, Psychology, Age of arrival 13
 Shenelle Weekes, NY, Baruch College, Business Management, Age of arrival 4
 Sheridan BockMartinez, GA, Delaware State University, Aviation Flight Management, Age of arrival 1
 Shermica Antoine, NY, Lehman College, Psychology, Age of arrival 14
 Sheyla Gazpar, IL, Dominican University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 13
 Sheyla Montalvo, ID, Purdue University Global (online), Public Relations, Age of arrival 13
 Shiyron Sugrim, PA, The City College of New York, Engineering Mechanics, Age of arrival 7
 Siddiq Mohammed, NY, Queens College, Political Science, Age of arrival 7
 Silma Peldakaj, NY, Lehman College, Undecided, Age of arrival 1
 Silmi Dhamani, TX, University of Houston, Nursing, Age of arrival 7
 Silvana Moya Gonzalez, UT, University of Utah, Undecided, Age of arrival 8

Silvia Espinoza Quinde, NY, Hostos Community College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 15
 Silvia Guzman, NY, Baruch College, Human Resources, Age of arrival 3
 Silvia Medina Balcazar, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Biochemistry, Age of arrival 9
 Silvia Rodríguez, OH, Purdue University Global (online), Human Services, Age of arrival 4
 Silvia Santana, IL, North Central College, Bachelor's, Age of arrival 15
 Sindy Del Cid Martinez, PA, Delaware State University, Business, Age of arrival 11
 Sofia Fatima, IL, Arrupe College of Loyola University of Chicago, Accounting, Age of arrival 9
 Sofia Martinez Ascencio, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Age of arrival 7
 Sofia Salazar, TX, University of Houston, Management, Age of arrival 6
 Sohemabamu Shaikh, NY, Lehman College, Public Health, Age of arrival 14
 Sonia Jagernauth, NY, Baruch College, Replenishment Analysis, Age of arrival 9
 Sonia Mejia, MO, Purdue University Global (online), Business Administration, Age of arrival 4
 Sonia Rodriguez, WI, Florida International University, Nursing, Age of arrival 16
 Soodong Cho, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Computer Science, Age of arrival 9
 Sophia Gonzalez, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Communications, Age of arrival 3
 Sophie Kaloustian, TX, University of Houston, Public Policy, Age of arrival 11
 Sophie-Clément Zouga Ndong, TX, University of Houston, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Sotheaara Chea, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Stanley Laguerre, FL, Broward College, Computer Science, Age of arrival 11
 Stefania Bermpert, NY, Baruch College, Medicine, Age of arrival 9
 Stefania Calero Ayala, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Biology, Age of arrival 12
 Stefany Herrera, FL, Florida International University, International Marketing, Age of arrival 5
 Stephani Lopez Hernandez, IL, Dominican University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 1
 Stephanie Rendon, TX, University of Houston, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Stephanie Rodriguez, FL, University of Central Florida, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 10
 Stephany Argueta, WA, Delaware State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 Stephany Pineda Cardoso, NY, Baruch College, Media Studies, Age of arrival 7
 Suany Ayala, FL, Miami Dade College, RN (Registered Nurse), Age of arrival 2
 Susana Sanchez-Rosales, AZ, Northern Arizona University, Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Susana Vasquez Munoz, CA, University of California-Santa Cruz, Legal Studies, Age of arrival 6
 Tahera Attarwala, DE, Delaware State University, Natural Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Taisha Cervantes, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biology, Age of arrival 6
 Tania Contreras, NY, Farmingdale State College, Nursing, Age of arrival 14
 Tania Herrera, VA, George Mason University, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Tania Morin, TX, Texas A&M University – San Antonio, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Tania Zavaleta, CA, University of California-Merced, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Taniya Munyal, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Cell And Molecular Biology, Age of arrival 5
 Tatiana Bartolomeu de Faria, FL, University of Central Florida, Communication and Journalism, Age of arrival 4
 Tatiana Cosme, FL, Miami Dade College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 11
 Teresa De Jesus Bermejo Calixto, NY, LaGuardia Community College, Veterinary Technology, Age of arrival 8
 Terry John, NY, Brooklyn College, Communications, Age of arrival 7
 Thalia Rodriguez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Health Administration, Age of arrival 7
 Thalita Ortega, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Supply Chain And Marketing Science, Age of arrival 14
 Thony Yan Liang, FL, Florida International University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 8
 Tia Hunte, NY, Hunter College, English, Age of arrival 10
 Tomas Guzman, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice & Law Enforcement, Age of arrival 5
 Tomas Leon, NY, Lehman College, Computer Information Systems, Age of arrival 5
 Ulises Flores Mendoza, IL, Dominican University, Economics, Finance, Age of arrival 5
 Uri Perez, NY, New York City College of Technology, Network and Digital Technology, Age of arrival 15
 Uri Ventura, IL, North Park University, Biomedical Sciences, Age of arrival 14
 Uthman Okunola, NY, Brooklyn College, Information Systems, Age of arrival 14
 Valentina Sarrin, FL, University of South Florida, Animation, Age of arrival 12
 Valeria Aguillon, TX, University of Houston, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Valeria Lopez, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival
 Valeria Martinez Gonzalez, GA, Christian Brothers University, Business Management, Age of arrival 9
 Valeria Nunez, TX, University of Houston, Athletic Training, Age of arrival 8
 Valeria Rios, FL, Florida International University, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 7
 Valeria Silva Gomez, IL, Dominican University, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Valeria Vidal, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Business, Age of arrival 2
 Valery Emilia Martinez Almeida, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Social Work, Age of arrival 1
 Vanesa Rodriguez, IL, National Louis University, Early Childhood Education, Age of arrival 3
 Vanessa Cruz Suastegui, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1

Vanessa G3mez Tejeda, GA, Oglethorpe University, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Vanessa Kamalu, TX, University of Houston, Nursing, Age of arrival 4
 Vanessa Perez, IL, National Louis University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Vanessa Z, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 6
 Vania Galicia, CT, Eastern Connecticut State University, Undecided, Age of arrival 3
 Vania Hernandez Gonzalez, NV, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, Nursing, Age of arrival 1
 Vania ponce, FL, Palm Beach State College, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 9
 Vannya Torres, TX, University of Houston, Biology Pre Nursing, Age of arrival 7
 Vayravi Miranda Luna, NJ, Hostos Community College, Nursing, Age of arrival 6
 V3nicia Castro Villatoro, FL, Florida International University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Venus D., FL, Florida International University, Nutrition, Age of arrival 8
 Veronica Banda Rangel, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, History Education, Age of arrival 2
 Veronica Ochoa, NC, Delaware State University, Education, Age of arrival 5
 Vianey Canseco Heredia, CA, California State University-San Bernardino, Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Vianey Valdez Razo, RI, Purdue University Global (online), Business, Age of arrival 2
 Vianney Gomez, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Behavioral Sciences, Age of arrival 1
 Victor Barron Ramos, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Entrepreneurial Studies, Age of arrival 3
 Victor Carbajal, NY, Brooklyn College, Psychology, Age of arrival 9
 Victor Lazos-Aragon, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Victor Lopez Cabrera, FL, University of South Florida, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 Victoria Lapenne, GA, Delaware State University, Biology, Age of arrival 3
 Viridiana De Santiago, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance and Banking, Age of arrival 1
 Viridiana Molina, MS, Christian Brothers University, Arts and Humanities, Age of arrival 5
 Vladimir Louissaint, FL, University of Central Florida, Finance, Age of arrival 11
 Waleed Alamoodi, NY, Brooklyn College, Chemical Engineering, Age of arrival 11
 Weiming Wang Lin, NY, Brooklyn College, Undecided, Age of arrival 12
 Wendy Leyva, FL, Miami Dade College, Nursing, Age of arrival 10
 Wendy Martinez Rojo, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Finance, Age of arrival 2
 Wendy Pajarito-Talchino, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 1
 Wendy Rodri, FL, Miami Dade College, Architecture, Age of arrival 14
 Wendys Areli Lara, LA, Christian Brothers University, Biology, Age of arrival 5
 Wilfredo Velasquez, FL, Florida International University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Wilkin Galindo Diaz, NC, Delaware State University, Electrical Engineering, Age of arrival 2
 William Lima, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 7
 William Rivera, NJ, Rutgers University- New Brunswick, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 10
 Winiffer De Leon, NY, New York City College of Technology, Health Care Management, Age of arrival 5
 Winnie Cajuste, FL, University of South Florida, Health Science, Age of arrival 10
 Wva Hernandez-Cruz, SC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 2
 Ximena Barrios, NY, Hunter College, Human Biology, Age of arrival 2
 Ximena Martinez, IL, Northeastern Illinois University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 1
 Xitlaly Perez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 3
 Xochiquetzal Bustos, NY, Hunter College, Psychology, Age of arrival 4
 Xochitl Velazquez, TX, San Antonio College, Nursing, Age of arrival 9
 Yadira Miranda, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Psychology, Age of arrival 2
 Yael Hernandez, GA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Computer Software Engineering, Age of arrival 8
 Yaffet Seboka, MD, St. Mary's College of Maryland, Computer Science, Age of arrival 12
 Yahir Hernandez, IL, Illinois Institute of Technology, Civil Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Yair Lopez Vallejo, NC, Wingate University, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Yancarlo Jimenez Montero, UT, Weber State University, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 3
 Yancy Larreynaga, MD, Trinity Washington University (Women's College), Public Health, Age of arrival 2
 Yandel Castillo Espiritu, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Computer Engineering, Age of arrival 7
 Yanira Rivera, NY, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Forensic Psychology, Age of arrival 5
 Yaquelin Guzman, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Physicians Assistant, Age of arrival 11
 Yamzet Cardenas Sanchez, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Education, Age of arrival 3
 Yarely Hernandez, NC, Eastern Connecticut State University, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Yarexy Ortuno, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Criminal Justice, Age of arrival 2
 Yasmin Neri, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Psychology, Age of arrival 1
 Yasser Moreno, NY, Borough of Manhattan Community College, Business Administration, Age of arrival 12
 Yatana Romo, CO, Community College of Denver, Associates of science, Age of arrival 7
 Yatziry Galvan, CA, Sonoma State University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 6
 Yazmin Garcia, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Human Resources, Age of arrival 4
 Yazmin Nunez, CA, California State University-Long Beach, Sociology, Age of arrival 3

Yazmin Vega, DE, Delaware State University, Public Health, Age of arrival 7
 Yeimi Umana, NY, University at Albany, Accounting, Age of arrival 11
 Yeimmy Pinales, MA, Eastern Connecticut State University, Criminology, Age of arrival 9
 Yemeli Marin, GA, Purdue University Global (online), Accounting, Age of arrival 2
 Yenifer Juan Jesus, NE, College of Saint Mary (Women's College), Business, Age of arrival 7
 Yensly Castellanos, NY, Lehman College, Business, Age of arrival 4
 Yeny Contreras, AZ, Arizona State University, Nursing, Age of arrival 14
 Yesenia Cisneros, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Social Work, Age of arrival 2
 Yesli Linares, MO, Eastern Connecticut State University, Biochemistry, Age of arrival 11
 Yesly Vasquez Perez, VA, Northern Virginia Community College, Liberal Arts, Age of arrival 10
 Yesmi Alvarez Melendez, NY, The City College of New York, Psychology, Age of arrival 3
 Yessenia Torres Martinez, IL, Dominican University, Health Science, Age of arrival 8
 Yezka Martinez, CO, Metropolitan State University of Denver, Accounting, Age of arrival 2
 Yhoalibeth Guerrero Becerril, TX, University of Houston, Communications, Age of arrival 1
 Yiris Aragon, AZ, Grand Canyon University, Digital Media, Age of arrival 14
 Yizel Real, TX, University of Houston, Communications, Age of arrival 1
 Yogeeta Seesankar, NY, Baruch College, Finance, Age of arrival 10
 Yohhani Monzon, IL, Dominican University, Computer Science, Age of arrival 3
 Yolanda Mavhura, NC, Delaware State University, Liberal Studies, Age of arrival 7
 Yoliswa Cele, NY, Hostos Community College, Undecided, Age of arrival 3
 Yongting Shi, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Business Economics, Age of arrival 15
 Yongyan Shi, FL, Florida Atlantic University, Undecided, Age of arrival 13
 Yusuf Salomon, NJ, Rutgers University- Newark, Neuroscience, Age of arrival 5
 Yotwarit Kornwooditkun, VA, Marymount University, Fashion Design, Age of arrival 10
 Youshmanie Schmbi, CT, New York City College of Technology, Applied Chemistry, Age of arrival 3
 Yudith Saavedra, UT, Weber State University, Microbiology, Age of arrival 1
 Yuleysi Cilio Roman, TX, University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley, Mechanical Engineering, Age of arrival 4
 Yuricel Perez, FL, Miami Dade College, Business, Age of arrival 9
 Yuritzi Lara Lopez, TX, University of Houston, Kinesiology, Age of arrival 8
 Zaida Pina, CA, California State University-East Bay, Microbiology, Age of arrival 4
 Zainab Ajidele, NY, Hostos Community College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 13
 Zaine Sarai Gutierrez-Valenzuela, IN, Eastern Connecticut State University, Health Science, Age of arrival 3
 Zawad Anik, NY, Baruch College, Cybersecurity, Age of arrival 8
 Zay i Pineda, FL, Miami Dade College, Dental Hygiene, Age of arrival 3
 Zeida Sepulveda, TX, University of North Texas at Dallas, Finance, Age of arrival 1
 Zucely Valdez, NY, Hunter College, Human Development duals Psychology, Age of arrival 9
 Zuri Flores, GA, Oglethorpe University, Business Administration, Age of arrival 3
 Zurisaday Hoyte Jacqueline, NY, Hunter College, Psychology, Age of arrival 10
 Zuzanna Kelvin, NJ, Eastern Connecticut State University, Fine Arts, Age of arrival 12
 Zylbel Abrogucna, NY, Baruch College, Marketing Management, Age of arrival 11



Statement for the Record

Submitted to the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary

On Full Committee Hearing Titled:
“Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth”

Submitted by:
Cristobal Ramón and Laura Vazquez
UnidosUS
Raul Yzaguirre Building
1126 16th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-4845

May 8, 2024

Introduction

UnidosUS, formerly the National Council of La Raza, is the largest national Latino¹ civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States. For more than 50 years, we have worked to advance opportunities for Latino families to enhance their significant contributions to our country's social, economic, and political tapestry. In this capacity, UnidosUS and its Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations in 36 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico work to provide education, health care, immigration, housing, workforce development, free tax preparation, and other services to millions of Latinos in the United States each year.

Our Affiliate engagement work has allowed us to cultivate deep ties with on-the-ground communities nationwide and serve these diverse constituents by amplifying their voice to legislators. We have documented stories and collected data that depict the hardships – and successes – of some of the most vulnerable immigrant populations in the country: individuals with protections under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the broader population of individuals who arrived as children without authorization known as Dreamers.

Our work led us to submit testimony to this Committee in June 2021 on the need to protect DACA recipients and Dreamers through legislation such as the “Dream and Promise Act of 2021.”² Three years later, these individuals continue to make vital contributions to the U.S. economy, especially as more DACA recipients graduate from institutions of higher learning, enter and advance in the job market, and purchase their first homes.

Further, DACA recipients and Dreamers, who have long been described as “immigrant youth,” are entering adulthood in growing numbers, a step that includes personal milestones such as marrying U.S. citizens and having children who are U.S. citizens. Nevertheless, DACA recipients face the very real prospect that legal challenges may nullify the program. In contrast, Dreamers who are ineligible for the program continue to wait for Congress to act on a permanent solution to resolve their status.

In the same testimony, we stated that “the moment for action is now” and called on Congress to protect these individuals who served on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.³ We firmly reiterate this urgent call to action because only Congress can decisively and permanently resolve the legal status of Dreamers. Congress should invest in legal service providers who help longtime undocumented residents such as Dreamers identify and apply for immigration benefits for which they are eligible. An expanded and robust legal services network will be vital for assisting DACA recipients and Dreamers to access protection when Congress passes relief legislation.

¹ The terms “Hispanic” and “Latino” are used interchangeably by the U.S. Census Bureau and throughout this document to refer to persons of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central and South American, Dominican, Spanish, and other Hispanic descent; they may be of any race.

² UnidosUS “H.R.6, American Dream and Promise Act of 2021.” *UnidosUS*. 15 June 2021.
<https://unidosus.org/publications/2169-h-r-6-american-dream-and-promise-act-of-2021/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

³ Svajlenka, Nicole Prchal; Jawetz, Tom. “A Demographic Profile of TPS Holders Providing Essential Services During the Coronavirus Crisis.” *Center for American Progress*. 14 April 2020.
<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2020/04/14/483167/demographic-profile-tps-holders-providing-essential-services-coronavirus-crisis/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

Congress is running out of time to protect DACA recipients and Dreamers

In the three years since this Committee held a hearing about immigrant youth, the urgency to pass legislation to protect them has intensified. The program faces the substantial threat that the U.S. Supreme Court strikes down the program in 2025. Although the Supreme Court could order a gradual wind-down of the program, this scenario would see approximately 800 DACA holders lose their work permits and protection from deportation every day for two years.⁴

The broader population of Dreamers also faces dire straits for finding protection. The last set of legalization programs Congress created in the 1990s do not apply to Dreamers, many of whom arrived after 2000. As a result, 68 percent of the 10 to 11 million undocumented residents in the United States, which includes Dreamers, have been waiting for a decade or more for relief, which translates to greater vulnerability for many of the country's 11.3 million mixed-status families⁵ and employers reliant on these longtime workers across a range of industries.⁶

While the vulnerabilities facing DACA recipients and Dreamers persist, Congress has failed to act on this urgent issue. In addition to failing to enact legislation that protects these groups, the 2024 bipartisan Senate border deal did not include any provisions that would resolve the status of the longtime undocumented.⁷ The peril faced by millions of Dreamers who grew up in the U.S. and know no other home demands that lawmakers put them on a path to legal status and citizenship as a top legislative priority.

Putting Dreamers at risk continues placing the country's economic future at risk

Congress' failure to pass legislation protecting DACA recipients and Dreamers has grave economic and social risks since these individuals are deeply integrated into our country's economic and social fabric. Approximately 83.1 percent of DACA recipients are currently employed,⁸ with this

⁴ Ruiz Soto, Ariel G.; Gelatt, Julia. "A Shrinking Number of DACA Participants Face Yet Another Adverse Court Ruling." *Migration Policy Institute*. September 2023. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/shrinking-number-daca-participants> (accessed 9 May 2024).

⁵ Connor, Phillip. "Immigration reform can keep millions of mixed-status families together." *FWD.us*. 18 January 2024. <https://www.fwd.us/news/mixed-status-families-1/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

⁶ New American Economy. "Undocumented Immigrants." *New American Economy*. <https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/issues/undocumented-immigrants/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

⁷ Cowan, Richard. "Dreamers left out in the cold by US Senate border bill." *Reuters*. 5 February 2024. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/dreamers-left-out-cold-by-us-senate-border-bill-2024-02-05/> (accessed 9 May 2024); Gamboa, Suzanne. "No allies left: Dreamers, DACA recipients are left out amid rightward shift on immigration." *NBC News*. 10 February 2024. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/congress-ignores-dreamers-daca-recipients-immigration-rcna137725> (accessed 9 May 2024).

⁸ Wong, et al. "DACA Recipients' Livelihoods, Families, and Sense of Security Are at Stake This November." *Center for American Progress*. 19 September 2019. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/19/474636/daca-recipients-livelihoods-families-sense-security-stake-november/> (accessed 11 June 2021).

number increasing to 91 percent for individuals over 25.⁹ Studies also find that DACA recipients have high levels of home ownership, with an estimated 30.7 percent purchasing a home since being approved for DACA.¹⁰

The lack of protection for these individuals threatens the country's economic vitality. In 2022, DACA recipients earned \$27.9 billion in annual wages as employees and employers and contributed nearly \$2.1 billion in Social Security and Medicare taxes, funds the country would lose if they were forced to leave the country.¹¹ The elimination of DACA would cost the economy 18,000 jobs a month for two years in a period where the country is experiencing workforce shortages.¹² Given relief legislation such as the "Dream and Promise Act of 2021" is a boon for the economy, Congressional inaction on this issue is a lose-lose prospect for the country.¹³

The lack of permanent protection for these groups also threatens U.S. families. Estimates suggest that 1 million U.S. citizens currently live with DACA recipients, which includes spouses, children, siblings, and other family members. Without DACA, an estimated 1,000 of these U.S. citizens face the prospect of a family member falling into the risk of deportation every day for two years. Our research finds that the threat of deporting undocumented parents is extremely detrimental to the health of their children,¹⁴ showing that providing relief to DACA recipients and Dreamers upholds our country's values and improves the public health of families living with these individuals.

Expansion of legal services capacity is essential for protecting DACA recipients and Dreamers

Congress must pass legislation that protects longtime undocumented individuals such as DACA recipients and Dreamers. It must also invest in and grow community-based immigration legal services and infrastructure, so DACA recipients have access to trusted and qualified legal service providers. In the face of congressional inaction, we need these providers to help Dreamers identify immigration benefits for which they may qualify under current law. Furthermore, establishing a robust legal services network is essential for successfully implementing a legalization program and ensuring potentially millions of eligible individuals enroll.

⁹ Wong, et al. "DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results." *Center for American Progress*. 27 April 2023. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-boosts-recipients-well-being-and-economic-contributions-2022-survey-results/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹⁰ Campbell, Emma. "More DACA recipients are homeowners than ever before." *Niskanen Center*. 25 April 2024. <https://www.niskanencenter.org/more-daca-recipients-are-homeowners-than-ever-before/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹¹ FWD.us. "Dreamers: By the numbers." FWD.us. 7 March 2023. <https://www.fwd.us/news/dreamers-by-the-numbers/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹² Connor, Phillip. "What Happens if DACA ends?" *FWD.us*. 2 May 2024. <https://www.fwd.us/news/what-if-daca-ends/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹³ Estimates suggest that passing the American Dream and Promise Act of 2021 (H.R. 6) would increase U.S. GDP by a cumulative total of \$799 billion over 10 years, create 285,400 new jobs, and result in American workers seeing their annual wages increase by \$400. Peri, Giovanni; Zaiour, Reem. "Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants Would Boost U.S. Economic Growth." *Center for American Progress; UC Davis Global Migration Center*. June 2021. <https://www.americanprogress.org/?p=500433> (accessed 14 June 2021).

¹⁴ UnidosUS. "Beyond the Border Family Separation in the Trump Era." *UnidosUS*. March 2019. <https://unidosus.org/publications/1915-beyond-the-border-family-separation-in-the-trump-era/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

Although most DACA recipients cannot adjust their status in the United States, some can pursue relief through specific channels, including one linked to an existing legal authority known as advance parole.¹⁵ Currently, DACA recipients who meet certain requirements can leave and enter the country without facing immigration penalties or detention if DHS grants them this benefit.¹⁶ Some DACA recipients can pursue a green card¹⁷ or visas such as the H-1B high skilled visa¹⁸ after returning through this process since it satisfies the requirement that individuals must lawfully enter the country so a family member¹⁹ or an employer can sponsor them for these benefits.

In addition to the tangible benefits that qualified legal service providers offer DACA recipients, investing in our community-based immigration legal services infrastructure will be vital for successfully operationalizing relief legislation. The more qualified legal service providers are available to assist immigrants, the more likely the applications will be prepared accurately without needing things like requests for additional evidence. As a result, these investments can help reduce the adjudication costs of applying for green cards through relief legislation and provide a return on the investment made in these legal networks.²⁰

Conclusion: Investing in legal service providers is investing in Dreamers

DACA recipients and Dreamers have demonstrated their integral role in the American economy, education system, and communities. Nevertheless, their future remains uncertain due to legal challenges and the absence of comprehensive legislation to protect them. Far from being an ancillary part of protecting these individuals, funding access to qualified legal assistance is crucial to helping these groups pursue pathways to permanent residency and citizenship. By investing in community-based immigration legal services infrastructure, we can retain these indispensable members of our communities and reduce inefficiencies in the immigration system, ultimately benefiting the nation's economy. Protecting DACA recipients and Dreamers is not just a matter of justice and compassion, it is a strategic investment in America's future.

¹⁵ U.S. Customs and Border Protection. "Advance Parole." *U.S. Customs and Border Protection*. 5 March 2024. <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/advance-parole> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹⁶ Immigrant Legal Resource Center. "Travel for DACA Applicants (Advance Parole)." *Immigrant Legal Resource Center*. 2015. https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/documents/advance_parole_guide.pdf (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹⁷ Garcia, Veronica. "Advising and Screening DACA Recipients for Present and Future Options." *Immigration Legal Resource Center*. March 2023. https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/2023-03/DACA%20Options%20FinalFormatted_0.pdf (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹⁸ Withanachchi, Mikesha. "Adjustment of Status Through Work Visas for DACA Recipients: Explainer." *National Immigration Forum*. 12 December 2023. <https://immigrationforum.org/article/adjustment-of-status-through-work-visas-for-daca-recipients-explainer/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

¹⁹ DACA recipients have established family networks that can help them secure sponsors for a green card. A 2023 survey of the DACA population found 75.9 percent of respondents have an immediate family member, meaning a parent, sibling, spouse, or child who is a U.S. citizen. Among married respondents, 48.4 percent have a spouse who is a U.S. citizen. Wong, et al. "DACA Boosts Recipients' Well-Being and Economic Contributions: 2022 Survey Results." *Center for American Progress*. 27 April 2023. <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/daca-boosts-recipients-well-being-and-economic-contributions-2022-survey-results/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

²⁰ Chishti, Muzaffar; Kamasaki, Charles; Vasquez, Laura. "Advancing Immigrant Legal Representation: The Next Fifteen Years." *Fordham Law Review* 86.5. 2023. <https://ir.lawnet.fordham.edu/flr/vol92/iss3/3/> (accessed 9 May 2024).

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice Statement to the Senate Judiciary Committee on its [Hearing](#) – “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need To Protect Immigrant Youth

Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) is a nationwide organization of Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations and members that advocate for social justice at the national level. UUSJ urges the Senate Judiciary Committee to use this hearing to emphasize the urgent need for Congress to pass legislation such as the [Dream and Promise Act](#) (H.R. 16), which would create a path to citizenship for Dreamers – immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children, and to seek further legislative solutions to provide stability and permanence for the [11 million](#) undocumented people living in the U.S. today.

Since 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided work authorization and relief from deportation to certain undocumented young people who arrived in the U.S. as children. Access to DACA has had a transformative impact on the approximately [800,000 people](#) who have been protected by it over the program’s lifetime. However, as the DACA program approaches its twelfth anniversary, DACA recipients face ongoing precarity, and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers are ineligible for its protection.

Upon receiving DACA, recipients [report](#) significantly increased incomes and expanded access to educational opportunities, benefits that strengthen American communities and institutions. In recent years, DACA has faced repeated legal challenges that threaten the stability and security of the [530,000 people](#) currently protected by DACA and their communities. A federal court decision barring the government from [processing new applications](#) for relief under DACA has left an estimated 400,000 DACA-eligible individuals [unable to access protections](#). Meanwhile, [over 600,000](#) undocumented school-age children are not eligible for protection because they arrived in the U.S. too recently.

UUSJ commends efforts by the Biden administration to [strengthen DACA](#) and [improve access](#) to core services like healthcare for DACA recipients. But DACA recipients and other Dreamers continue to face an ongoing cycle of uncertainty and fear as they build their lives in American communities. Our UU principles call on us to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people—regardless of immigration status—and to work to promote justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. We believe that all immigrants deserve just and humane treatment and that immigrants, who have lived in the U.S. for 10-20 years and have established productive lives here, deserve a pathway to permanent residence. At its General Assembly meeting in 2023, the Unitarian Universalist Association issued a [statement](#) calling for support of the Dreamers, including legislation protecting the Dreamers.

It is incumbent upon Congress to act now to protect Dreamers and all 11 million people in communities across our country who have for too long lived under the threat of detention and deportation, including by passing legislation like the Dream and Promise Act.

COALITION *for the*
AMERICAN DREAM

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member, Committee on the
Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, and Members of the Committee on the Judiciary:

We submit the following statement for the record regarding the topic of today’s hearing, “Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth.”

The Coalition for the American Dream is an organization of business leaders representing every major sector of the U.S. economy and more than half of American private sector workers. Our more than 100 top companies and trade associations also proudly employ thousands of Dreamers who were brought to this country as children and raised as Americans.

Today’s hearing comes just one month before the twelve-year anniversary of the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. When the program was created, it was intended to provide urgent—yet temporary—relief for Dreamers, those undocumented immigrants who came to the United States at a young age and were at risk of suffering serious economic and personal harms because of their lack of immigration status. Leaders in both parties at the time seemed committed to providing a bipartisan permanent legislative solution, but failed to reach one.

Over the past twelve years, DACA granted many of these young people some reprieve by allowing them the opportunity to come forward, register with the government, and secure legal work authorization to support themselves and their families. Perhaps just as importantly, the deferral of removal provided DACA

recipients with the peace of mind that helped hundreds of thousands of people to pursue their dreams without the fear that their lives could be upended at a moment's notice. Many DACA recipients attended college, began their careers, or built their families, all of which has had a positive impact on the American economy and society.

Research shows that almost all (94%) current DACA recipients have graduated from high school and nearly half (47%) have some higher education. More than a third are married and have children. And the vast majority are currently in the labor force (79%), contributing an estimated \$13.3 billion to GDP each year.

About 300,000 current DACA recipients are employed in industries facing labor shortages.¹

Today, Dreamers live and work all across America. They are serving our communities as teachers, nurses, and first responders. They have stepped up to protect our country by joining the United States Armed Forces, or, like one of your witnesses today, protecting our communities by serving in law enforcement. Our companies and organizations are incredibly proud to employ DACA recipients, who have played important roles in our economic recovery and growth in recent years.

Unfortunately, we are reminded of the negative consequences of congressional inaction every time a young person is told that they are ineligible for DACA under the current rules, and each time a DACA recipient must file to renew their protections.

At its height, DACA protected more than 800,000 people. Today, the DACA protected population has shrunk to roughly 530,000 people.² Some DACA recipients have been able to access the legal immigration system and secure an enduring legal status. Many others have not been so fortunate.

¹ FWD.us, "DACA 11 Years Later: From students to careers and families," June 2023, <https://www.fwd.us/news/daca-anniversary>.

² United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, "Count of Active DACA Recipients By Month of Current DACA Expiration As of December 31, 2023," March 2024, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/active_daca_recipients_fy2024_q1.xlsx.

In total, experts estimate that there are as many as three million Dreamers living in the U.S.³ The population of unprotected young people, including those who came after the program's eligibility cut-off date (which has never been updated), as well as those whose applications cannot be processed because of court orders, continues to grow. More than 100,000 undocumented young people will graduate from high school this year with no way to access DACA.⁴

It is clear that DACA's time is running out. The Supreme Court could rule as early as this year on the legality of the program. There is a significant chance that those who are currently protected by the program may no longer be able to extend their benefits. They will be forced to quit their jobs, and their families will face the threat of deportation and separation. Their futures will, once again, be placed in jeopardy.

Allowing DACA to end without creating other legal options for the program's beneficiaries would be seriously harmful to our companies, and our country. Nearly 1,000 people would be forced to leave the workforce *each and every business day for two years*.⁵

That's one thousand people a day, every day for two years.

That's hundreds of workers in education, healthcare, construction, food preparation, and finance, lost every day.... month after month.

DACA was never meant to be a permanent solution, and congress should have acted a decade ago to provide a better pathway, but they have not. You have not.

³ Migration Policy Institute, "A Deeper Look at the DREAMers Who Could Feature in the Legalization Debate in Congress," February 2021, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/news/dreamers-who-could-feature-legalization-debate>.

⁴ FWD.us, "The Post-DACA Generation is Here: Nearly all this year's 120,000 undocumented new high school graduates are ineligible for the policy," May 2023, <https://www.fwd.us/news/undocumented-high-school-graduates>.

⁵ FWD.us, "What happens if DACA ends," May 2024, <https://www.fwd.us/news/what-if-daca-ends>.

With the real possibility of DACA ending without any other options for the vast majority of Dreamers, the need for bipartisan leadership and action on this issue is as real and urgent as it has ever been.

The American public, including majorities of Republican and Democratic voters, continue to be in favor of a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.⁶ **It is popular policy, it is the right thing to do, and it will make our immigration system, our economy, and every one of our communities stronger and better.**

There continues to be a real opportunity to break through the partisan gridlock on this issue. The Chair and Ranking Member of this committee have introduced legislation⁷ that would provide Dreamers an opportunity to clarify their legal status and pursue the American Dream in the country they have called home for many years. We applaud and appreciate their leadership on this issue, but the time for further action is past due. We urge the Members of this committee to act swiftly to advance critically needed bipartisan legislation that will provide a permanent solution.

* * * * *

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a statement for this hearing. We thank you for holding it. If you or your staff would like any further information, please contact press@coalitionfortheamericandream.us.

⁶ Impact Research / Public Opinion Strategies, "Findings from Recent Nationwide Immigration Polling," October 2022, <https://www.fwd.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/FWD.US-NATIONWIDE-IMMIGRATION-POLL-FINDINGS-MEMO-10.26.22.pdf>.

⁷

National Headquarters
4801 NW Loop 410, Suite 701
San Antonio, Texas 78229
210-692-3805 (voice) 210-692-0823 (fax)
www.hacu.net



May 7, 2024

**Written Testimony of Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Support for Permanent Solution for Dreamers**

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I urge Congress to expedite the passage of The Dream Act as a permanent and reasonable solution to the uncertainty and challenges that Dreamers face with or without DACA. This Act is not only a necessary response to a pressing issue but also a critical investment in the future of our nation.

HACU represents 600 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and over 400 emerging HSIs, which collectively serve a sizable portion of the nation's undocumented students, including Dreamers DACA protection. Currently, over 400,000 undocumented students, including many Dreamers, are pursuing higher education, further highlighting their integral role in our communities¹. Recent studies indicate that 73.5% of DACA recipients are completing a bachelor's degree or higher academic credentials, conclusively demonstrating the crucial role that HSIs can play in supporting their educational journey².

A decade after DACA's launching, more than 830,000 individuals have been granted deferred action. However, many more remain in limbo due to legal uncertainties and the inability to apply for DACA amidst ongoing federal court proceedings. It is crucial to note that the vast majority of Dreamers arrived in the United States at a very young age and recognize the U.S. as their only home.

The contributions of DACA recipients to the U.S. economy and society are substantial and multifaceted. Our nation and local communities have come to rely on the economic contributions of DACA recipients who pay over \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes each year. In addition, they have bought 68,000 homes, totaling \$760 million in mortgage payments and \$2.5 billion in rental payments each year³. Halting DACA renewals could cost the U.S. economy over \$280 billion in the next decade⁴. Research has estimated that a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers would generate \$800 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) growth over a decade.

¹ https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/07.23-Undocumented-Students_v3.pdf

² <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/2023-survey-of-daca-recipients-highlights-economic-advancement-continued-uncertainty-amid-legal-limbo/>

³ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition/>

⁴ <https://www.cato.org/blog/economic-fiscal-impact-repealing-daca>

DACA recipients have become essential workers, homeowners, household heads, entrepreneurs, and business owners. They are making significant contributions to the American economy and local communities as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, members of our military, skilled workers, and taxpayers. For example, approximately 30,000 healthcare workers who cared for the sick, served our neediest communities, and alleviated the shortage of health professionals at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic were DACA recipients⁵.

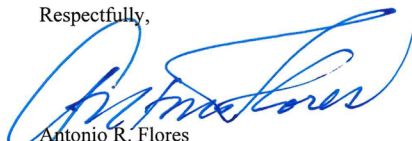
The urgency for a permanent legislative solution is underscored by the broad support among both Republicans and Democrats, and by the various sectors of the economy and society that benefit from the talents and contributions of Dreamers. Now is the time for a bipartisan compromise that ensures permanent protections for Dreamers, separate from the debates over border security and other immigration issues.

Congress must act now to prevent the devastating economic and societal impacts of failing to secure the future of Dreamers with and without DACA. The Dream Act would provide these young individuals with the stability and opportunities they need to fully realize their potential and continue contributing to our national prosperity. The passage of the Dream Act is the best solution to the untenable morass of keeping Dreamers as outsiders in the only country they call home.

We are committed to supporting our students and institutions, and we eagerly anticipate the opportunity to collaborate on achieving a permanent effective solution. HACU stands ready to serve as a resource as you deliberate on this crucial legislation.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Respectfully,



Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

⁵ <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/demographic-profile-daca-recipients-frontlines-coronavirus-response/>

May 8, 2024

On behalf of our 3 million members and the students they serve, we would like to submit the following comments in connection with today's hearing, "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Dreamers and Pass the Dream Act."

Most Dreamers—undocumented youth brought to the United States as children—have lived here for decades and are now adults. Three-fourths of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients have a child, sibling, spouse, or parent who is a U.S. citizen. They are integral parts of their communities, but are not treated that way.

NEA supports the Dream Act of 2023 (S. 365), the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023 (H.R. 16), and similar legislation that acknowledges and addresses these realities. Specifically:

- We support **inclusive legislation** that encompasses Dreamers, DACA recipients, and people granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for humanitarian reasons—a permanent solution for as many as possible—and oppose any effort to reduce or limit the number of individuals who could benefit.
- We support **multiple pathways to citizenship** and oppose any effort to restrict or impose additional burdens on immigrants.
- We support protecting the **due process rights** of every individual and oppose infringing on those rights in any way.
- We support remaining true to **America's values and history** as a nation of immigrants and oppose taking punitive or hurtful actions against immigrants.

We applaud President Biden's recent decision to expand health coverage for DACA recipients and urge the administration to take further action to stabilize families with undocumented immigrants—for example, through access to work permits and temporary status.

At the same time, NEA opposes demonizing immigrants through legislation that would severely restrict—in effect, shut down—the U.S. asylum system. The immigration process is in desperate need of attention, but the answer is NOT the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 2) or similar legislation.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and stand ready to help pass the Dream Act or similar legislation to provide stability for immigrant students, educators, and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association

May 8, 2024

Senator Dick Durbin, Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham, Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Statement for the Record for the hearing on 8 May 2024"/ **Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth"**

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Graham & Committee Members:

On behalf of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the largest statewide immigrant rights organization in California, I submit this statement in strong support of undocumented youth, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, and the long-term undocumented population who has been residing in the United States with limited or no pathway to citizenship, that is being heard in your Committee on the Judiciary on May 8, 2024. Our support is rooted in our unwavering conviction that immigrants with DACA, DREAMERS, undocumented youth, their families, and all 11 million undocumented immigrants are essential and help form the backbone of the United States.

Founded in 1986, CHIRLA advocates for just and humane policies that positively affect all immigrant communities. For decades, we have engaged in previous fights related to broader immigration reform, the DREAM Act and the ongoing implementation of DACA. Currently, we lead a national campaign to change the registry date of the Immigration and Nationality Act in order offer permanent protections for millions of immigrants.

Through education, organizing and advocacy, our members and our staff act as agents of social change to achieve a just society fully inclusive of immigrants. Additionally, CHIRLA hosts two youth branches, the California DREAM Network (CDN) and WISE UP! Both youth arms aim to organize immigrant youth and youth allies at high school and college levels to advocate for undocumented immigrant youth, and undocumented immigrants as a whole.

California is composed of diverse immigrant families and the state continues to have the largest overall immigrant population at 10.4 million or 27% of the entire state. Nearly 2 million of California's immigrants are undocumented and over 3.3 million U.S. citizens and green card holders live in mixed status families. Over time, California's immigrant population has grown not just in the larger cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco but well beyond into surrounding areas

CHIRLA wants to lift up testimony from two of our members in the context of this hearing:

Kevin:

This summer I will join a university as a faculty member after earning my Ph.D. Nearly six years ago I earned two undergraduate degrees from an Ivy League school. All my accolades would have been nearly impossible without the baseline safety and stability that DACA provides me. Without DACA I wouldn't have been able to hold my job as a printmaking studio technician, held a position as a teaching fellow in my graduate program last year, or accepted a job offer in January. Every two to three years, I am reminded that all these opportunities can go away, which is why we need a permanent solution.

Despite the tenuous safety and stability that DACA provides, I am in a privileged position. I know peers who do not have that sense of security in this country. Imagine how many people haven't been able to realize their full potential, not because they don't want to or because they haven't worked for it, but simply because of legal status. I appeal to your humanity. This is something that you can change, not just for those of us with DACA but for the whole of the undocumented community.

Sean:

I would like to highlight three key points:

- *The current status of the DACA program is precarious. Legislation is needed to stabilize the program as well as the livelihoods and future of its beneficiaries.*
- *DACA has made a positive impact in my life and to many other beneficiaries of the program who are utilizing the program to make significant contributions to the United States.*
- *The program was a temporary solution to issues that the immigration system faced more than a decade ago, but also a promise of a pathway forward.*

Over the last few years, the DACA program has faced many legal challenges, which have put the program in a precarious position. But even more importantly, these recent challenges and setbacks have destabilized the lives of DACA beneficiaries including my family and mine. I, along with my two brothers, have been beneficiaries of the program since it was first introduced. We all rely on program to maintain our livelihoods – as a public health researcher, a nurse, and an engineer. Every time the DACA program faces a legal challenge, we are left wondering whether this would be the last time that we could do what we love – helping the people around us and the community that we had grown up in. On behalf of my family and many beneficiaries of this program, I urge this body to take bold action to create legislation to protect the DACA program and secure the lives of its beneficiaries and their families.

DACA has made a significantly positive impact on my life and on many other beneficiaries. A 2023 KFF study showed that 41% of DACA beneficiaries, ages 19-41, have attended college or have a college degree or higher, 54% are working full-time, 40% have become parents and 64% reported having excellent or very good health. For me, DACA has enabled me to go to attend and graduate from the University of California, Berkeley with my bachelor's degree as well as obtain a graduate degree from

UCLA. Through the DACA program, I was able to serve as a public health researcher and health policy analyst during the one of the most crucial and challenging times in our country – the COVID-19 outbreak and pandemic. I am but one example of the many other beneficiaries who are utilizing the program to make significant contributions to the United States. An U.S. Senate Joint Economic Committee report showed that over the last decade, DACA recipients have added \$460.3 billion to the U.S. economy, and many more are contributing to building new technology and pushing innovations forward, creating new businesses, and saving lives

Immigrants and undocumented immigrants have made expansive contributions to their communities and a pathway to citizenship would offer our country a stronger workforce, a more robust economy, among many other benefits. In 2022, DACA recipients earned \$27.9 billion in annual wages, contributed \$2.1 billion to Social Security, they own 68,000 homes across the country, paid \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion to state and local taxes. The larger immigration population of 11 million has provided even more.

Immigrant youth, DACA recipients, and the undocumented population as a whole need broader legislation to protect them. Next year will be the 40th year since the passage of immigration reform and many of our undocumented youth, DACA recipients, undocumented immigrants remain under constant threat and limbo. This year, like many others, Congress can pass legislation that creates permanent protections.

CHIRLA urges Congress to act quickly and recognize the indispensable contributions that the immigrant community has made for decades—as integral parts of our communities, our lives, and our country.

Please contact me at marisol.h@chirla.org should you have any questions.

Marisol Hernandez
Deputy Director of National Policy, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)



1201 16th St, N.W. | Washington, DC 20036 | Phone: (202) 833-4000

Rebecca S. Pringle
President

Princess R. Moss
Vice President

Noel Candelaria
Secretary-Treasurer

Kim A. Anderson
Executive Director

May 8, 2024

Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Senator:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the students they serve, we would like to submit the following comments in connection with today's hearing, "Dream Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Dreamers and Pass the Dream Act."

Most Dreamers—undocumented youth brought to the United States as children—have lived here for decades and are now adults. Three-fourths of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients have a child, sibling, spouse, or parent who is a U.S. citizen. They are integral parts of their communities, but are not treated that way.

NEA supports the Dream Act of 2023 (S. 365), the American Dream and Promise Act of 2023 (H.R. 16), and similar legislation that acknowledges and addresses these realities. Specifically:

- We support **inclusive legislation** that encompasses Dreamers, DACA recipients, and people granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for humanitarian reasons—a permanent solution for as many as possible—and oppose any effort to reduce or limit the number of individuals who could benefit.
- We support **multiple pathways to citizenship** and oppose any effort to restrict or impose additional burdens on immigrants.
- We support protecting the **due process rights** of every individual and oppose infringing on those rights in any way.
- We support remaining true to **America's values and history** as a nation of immigrants and oppose taking punitive or hurtful actions against immigrants.

We applaud President Biden's recent decision to expand health coverage for DACA recipients and urge the administration to take further action to stabilize families with undocumented immigrants—for example, through access to work permits and temporary status.

At the same time, NEA opposes demonizing immigrants through legislation that would severely restrict—in effect, shut down—the U.S. asylum system. The immigration process is in desperate need of attention, but the answer is NOT the Secure the Border Act of 2023 (H.R. 2) or similar legislation.

We thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments and stand ready to help pass the Dream Act or similar legislation to provide stability for immigrant students, educators, and communities nationwide.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association



May 8, 2024

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

I write today to express our appreciation to the Committee for continuing to highlight the important contributions that Dreamers make to America, and reinforce Apple's ongoing support for Dreamers and their significant impact on companies like ours. Apple's success stems from its people. We are proud to have nearly 450 DACA recipients employed at Apple. We continue to be concerned about the prospect of losing our DACA colleagues from our company and society. At Apple, Dreamers are members of our collective family. Their creativity and passion have made us a stronger and more innovative American company.

We have long encouraged Congress to take action to make protections for Dreamers permanent. These individuals deserve our respect as equals, and Congress needs to find a solution rooted in American values. Any legislation should provide a sensible pathway to citizenship. As Tim Cook has said, "I will fight until my toes point up on the subject because I think that it is so core to who we are as a people that we not turn our back on people that came into the country as kids, they were brought here well before they could make a decision on their own. These people are the core of what an American is."

Apple
One Apple Park Way
Cupertino, CA 95014

T 408 996-1010
F 408 996-0275



Apple would not be where we are today without Dreamers, who have earned the right to continue their extraordinary contributions to our company and our society. Finding a solution for the Dreamers has for years enjoyed the overwhelming support of the American public, and that support runs across party lines. Apple stands ready to assist with any efforts to ensure that Dreamers no longer live in limbo and will continue to advocate for policies that support DACA recipients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy Powderly", is placed above the typed name.

Timothy Powderly
Senior Director, Government Affairs, Americas
Apple