

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. in room SR-328A to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SH-216 to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 9:50 a.m. in room SD-406 to consider the nomination R. D. James, of Missouri, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Department of Defense.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SD-406 to conduct a hearing entitled "Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission".

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Using Force: Strategic, Political, and Legal Considerations".

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 2:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing entitled "Treaties".

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SD-430 to conduct a hearing entitled "Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Responding to Mental Health Needs".

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, in room S-216 to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Johnny Collett, of Kentucky, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Mitchell Zais, of South Carolina, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Blew, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development, all of the Department of Education, William Beach, of Kansas,

to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics, Kate S. O'Scannlain, of Maryland, to be Solicitor, and Scott A. Mugno, of Pennsylvania, and Preston Rutledge, of the District of Columbia, both to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Labor, and other pending nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SD-226 to conduct a hearing on the following confirmation: Elizabeth L. Branch, of Georgia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, R. Stan Baker, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia, Charles Barnes Goodwin, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma, Matthew J. Kacsmark, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Matthew Spencer Petersen, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, and Eli Jeremy Richardson, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND CAPABILITIES

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. to conduct a closed hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 10 a.m. in room SR-253 to conduct a hearing research, diagnosis, and treatment for traumatic brain injury/concussion in servicemembers.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ANTITRUST, COMPETITION POLICY AND CONSUMER RIGHTS

The Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy and Consumer Rights of the Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 13, 2017, at 2 p.m. in room SD-226 to conduct a hearing entitled "The Consumer Welfare Standard in Antitrust: Outdated or a Harbor in Sea of Doubt?".

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Nima Binara, a detailee on my Judiciary Committee staff, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the 115th Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my intern, Alisha Bi, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Thursday, December 14; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the Ho nomination; finally, that all time during recess, adjournment, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture on the Ho nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of our Democratic colleagues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

DACA

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, Senator DURBIN has been leading a group of us talking about DACA, or the Dreamers. I wish to tell the Senate two stories.

I wish to tell you about Elisha Dawkins. He was a baby who was brought from the Bahamas at age 6 months. He grew up in America. He grew up in Jacksonville, FL. He never knew anything about his roots. He only knew that he was in America.

He served two tours in Iraq. He came back and joined the Navy Reserve. He had a top secret clearance and was sent to the very sensitive post of Guantanamo, where he was given a job as a photographer—obviously, a very sensitive position.

Through an application for a passport and checking on the background of the passport, it came to be learned that he had come to America as an infant, and for what reason—for the life of me, it has not been explained—he was arrested and thrown in jail by a U.S. attorney. Once this case came to the light of day and some of us started speaking out about it, a Federal district judge took it in her hands to lecture the U.S. attorney, and only because of that, Elisha Dawkins was released from jail.

As a result, we then started getting into it, and Elisha Dawkins was finally given his citizenship, and he is now serving in his native Jacksonville. He is a nurse.

Here is an individual who had served two tours in Iraq and was in a top secret clearance in the service to the

Navy Reserve in Guantanamo. This just shouldn't happen. Individuals in good faith have gone about carrying on—some not even knowing; and Elisha certainly didn't know of his undocumented status—but now we have many others. These individuals, in good faith, have divulged personal information to the Department of Homeland Security, which could eventually deport them, and that is why it is critical that we pass the Dream Act as soon as possible.

I have heard from DACA recipients from all around the country, but especially I have heard from a lot of the 30,000 who are in the State of Florida. I have heard from DACA recipients who are valedictorians, medical students, even priests. Many are the primary breadwinners for their families.

Senator DURBIN has already highlighted some of my constituents over the years, including Cristina Velasquez, a graduate of Miami Dade community college who will soon graduate from Georgetown University and fulfill her dream of becoming a teacher for Teach For America.

Cristina came to America at age 6 from Venezuela, a country whose problems Senator DURBIN and I, but also the Presiding Officer today, have consistently been concerned about—the plight of Venezuela.

If we fail to pass the Dream Act, are we saying that we are going to send Cristina back to the Maduro dictatorship in Venezuela, a dictatorship that can't even provide the basic staples for its citizens? Are we going to allow this young lady—who grew up thinking she was an American, now graduating from Georgetown—to channel her skills and her passion toward bettering our communities in need as a teacher? It doesn't make any sense to deport these kids.

The contributions that Dreamers have made are countless, and Cristina and Elisha are just two examples. These Dreamers will continue to better our communities if only we will pass the legislation that Senator DURBIN is sponsoring and many of us are cosponsoring.

Rhetorically—this was going to be a time of question and answers, but Senator DURBIN allowed me to kick off this session, and I see that we have many other Senators to speak.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Thank you, Mr. President, for the recognition.

Mr. President, the President of the United States terminated the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, otherwise known as DACA, 3 months ago. He gave Congress 6 months to act. We are no closer today to helping our Dreamers than the day the President so callously canceled the program.

We have almost 800,000 young people whose lives, dreams, and futures hang in the balance. They are scared. Their

families are scared. Everything they have worked for is at risk.

Dreamers represent some of our very best and brightest. They are going to school, holding down jobs, volunteering in our communities. They want to be doctors, lawyers, engineers. They want to start businesses.

They came here as children, and they are American through and through. They love our country as much as any of us, and they want to stay and contribute.

We have almost 7,000 Dreamers in my home State of New Mexico. Carlos is one of them. Carlos was brought to New Mexico from Mexico when he was less than 1 year old. New Mexico is the only home Carlos has ever known.

Because of Carlos's immigration status, his opportunities were limited. He couldn't play sports in school, and he couldn't go on field trips, even though he pledged allegiance to the United States, just like his classmates.

Carlos registered with DACA 2 years ago, and in his words, he was given "wings." He is now a full-time student at New Mexico State University, studying to be a mechanical engineer. He volunteers as a firefighter. He works as a server at a local restaurant, and he began a drive to help Hurricane Harvey victims.

Carlos says: "We, as Dreamers, have proven ourselves to be worthy of being here in the United States."

Carlos's story can be told hundreds of thousands of times over. Congress must act, and we must act now. We owe it to these young people. We must give Carlos and all other Dreamers their wings.

Passing the Dream Act is the morally right thing to do, but it is also the economically smart thing to do. Dreamers' contributions to the U.S. economy are astounding. Their jobs span the spectrum. They work in health, education, nonprofits, wholesale, retail, business, and hold professional jobs. Most of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ Dreamers, and that is why more than 400 CEOs of major U.S. companies have urged Congress to pass the Dream Act.

If Congress fails to act, it will cost us 700,000 jobs—as many as 30,000 jobs a month—causing chaos for employers, and we could see a \$460 billion decrease in economic output over a decade. Social Security and Medicare contributions could drop by \$39.3 billion over the same period.

In my State, New Mexico would lose nearly 6,000 DACA workers and take a \$385 million hit. We simply cannot afford it.

We have a bipartisan Dream Act before us. Senator DURBIN is working with our Republican colleagues, Republican friends, to get us over the finish line. Let's do the right thing by these young people, and let's do it now so Carlos can become an engineer and so hundreds of thousands of Dreamers can stop living in fear and move forward with their lives. It is our moral obligation to do this.

We also must do right by the 11 million immigrants in our Nation who are working, raising families, contributing to our economy, and helping in our communities. Congress must stop kicking the can down the road. We must do our job. We must debate and pass comprehensive immigration reform. Law-abiding immigrants who are contributing to our Nation should be given a pathway to citizenship.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on September 5 of this year, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. That same day, President Trump called on Congress to come up with a solution to legalize DACA.

He challenged us; he said to the Senate, and he said to the House: I am going to eliminate this Executive order of President Obama. Now it is your turn. Pass a law if you want to protect 780,000 young people who had signed up under DACA.

DACA was the direct result of the DREAM Act, which I introduced 16 years ago, to try to protect young people who came to the United States, brought here by their parents at an early age, who grew up here and don't have a future. They don't have a home. They don't have a legal status. They don't have a country to call their own.

It strikes me that these young people themselves did nothing wrong. I can even argue that their parents did what every parent would do—the best thing they could for their kids. But in this situation, trying to focus on what their future will be, their future is clearly in doubt, and right now many of them are worried about what is going to happen next.

You see, without the protection of DACA, they can be deported. They are undocumented. They can't legally work in the United States, and many of them have wondered whether they should continue school or what they will do when they can't go to work. These are real-life challenges, and many times they break down emotionally as they talk about the uncertainty of their future.

Just outside this Capitol is a beautiful Mall, and smack dab in the middle of it are two white tents. They are tents that have been built by these young Dreamers in an effort to process hundreds of people, just like themselves, who are coming to Washington to tell their stories to Senators and Congressmen in the hopes that we will do something.

There are some in the Senate who don't want to help them at all. They

don't believe they should receive any help in any way whatsoever. There are others who say: Let's put it off. Let's do it sometime, maybe next year. Next year is coming soon, and under the President's decision, on March 5 of 2018—just a few weeks from now—there will be no DACA protection whatsoever.

It means that today, 122 a day of these DACA-protected young people will fall out of protected status. March 5 of next year, the number goes to 1,000 a day—1,000 a day—who will be subject to deportation, uncertain about what their future might be.

I think it is time for us to do something, and I hope that we can do it on a bipartisan basis and do it in a timely fashion. It is important that we fix our entire immigration system, but let's not try to do everything that needs to be done on immigration when we should be taking care of these young people as our highest and first priority.

I am ready to sign up for immigration reform. I was there before. It was called the Gang of 8—four Democrats and four Republicans. A few years ago, we came up with a comprehensive bill to pass the Senate. The Republicans in the House refused to even call for a hearing, let alone a vote on the floor.

We should do our part to pass the new DACA, the new Dream Act. Do it before we leave this year. Do it this year so that we can spare these young people the anxiety and stress and fear they have because of the current situation and so that we can meet President Trump's challenge.

I didn't like the fact that he eliminated DACA, but it is fair for him to say to us: You have 6 months, Congress. Now do something.

I am not in control here. I am in the minority, being a Democrat. It is up to Republican leaders here.

All I hear from Republican leaders is: Let's wait until next year and see if we have time to get around to this. We have the time, all the time we need now, to do this.

I want to thank a number of people. First, I want to thank the 34 Republican House Members who, last week, sent a letter to the Speaker of the House, PAUL RYAN, saying that we should fix the DACA system before we leave this year. Thank you to those 34 Republicans.

In this Chamber, I want to thank 6 or 10 Republican Senators who have either cosponsored the Dream Act or are now actively engaged in helping to rewrite its replacement in the Senate. I am sure this kind of bipartisanship is a surprise to those who follow Congress, but it is an indication that many people share my belief that it is a simple matter of justice to give these young people their chance to become part of America's future.

I started a few years ago, when the Dreamers worked up the courage to declare publicly that they were undocumented—frightening their parents but giving them some unity and identity in

America. I started coming to the floor when they sent me their color photos and telling their stories because there is no speech I could give that matches the stories of their lives. Each time I tell a story, I know it makes a difference. I know the people who are watching this on C-SPAN and those who are in the Galleries here in the Senate pay close attention because we are talking about real lives and real people.

Tonight I want to tell you about Carla Martinez. Carla Martinez was brought to the United States from Mexico at the age of 8. She grew up in the Austin and Pflugerville area of Texas, and she was an excellent student. In middle school and high school, she enrolled in advanced placement and community college courses, and she was recognized as an AP scholar student. In high school, she participated in the band, and she worked and volunteered in her community. During her senior year, Carla would go to school from 9 a.m. until 2:30 in the afternoon, then she would work from 3 in the afternoon until 11 at night and only then start her homework.

In August 2012, Carla began her studies at the University of Texas, San Antonio, obtaining a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. A student like Carla, who is undocumented, did not qualify for Federal Government assistance. It meant there was no Pell grant to help her pay for college or a Federal loan to help her pay for college. She had to work to earn the money to pay her way through school. Something which many people would shrink away from, she accepted the reality of being undocumented in America. Because she was ineligible for financial aid, she worked to support herself, and she often had to choose between food and buying books.

During college, Carla was also an officer in a number of organizations, including the Society of Women Engineers. She was a College of Engineering Ambassador, which means she had to maintain a very high GPA at the University of Texas. During her summers, Carla interned at Alpha Testing and the San Antonio Water System while she also worked as an engineering camp counselor.

In August of 2016, Carla was the first DACA recipient to study abroad with the University of Texas at San Antonio's Education Abroad Program. She studied in as part of the first group of students to participate in the Urbino, Italy, civil engineering program.

Because she couldn't get financial aid, studying abroad was more difficult for her than the other students who were part of the program. Not only did she need the money to go to college, she needed to raise the money to pay for the study abroad. She never gave up.

One of her professors said:

Carla is a very dedicated student. She has excellent organizational skills and works well with her classmates. She is a team play-

er. Her involvement with the College is fantastic—she has been an ambassador.

In May 2017, Carla graduated from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a civil engineering degree and two job offers. Today she works full-time at M&S Engineering as a water/wastewater engineer.

Her dreams for the future are to go back to school and get a master's in business and engineering and to give back by creating a scholarship program to help fund other engineering students.

Carla wrote me a letter about her worries because of President Trump's decision to take away her protection from being deported from the United States. Here is what she said: "Every day that passes, it's a day closer to not being able to work, not having a driver's license, and not being able to financially provide for my family as the head of the household."

People like Carla are the reason more than 400 business leaders signed a letter to all Members of Congress urging us to do something and pass a bipartisan Dream Act. The letter says:

Dreamers are vital to the future of our companies and our economy. With them, we grow and create jobs. They are part of why we continue to have a global competitive advantage.

That gathering of Dreamers out on the Mall, just away from the Capitol dome here, are a lot of young people just like Carla. They are coming here in the hopes that Members of Congress will slow down in the hallways on the way to their office or to a committee hearing and just hear for a moment their stories—stories just like Carla's—stories that really beg us to do something. We know we have to, we know we should, and there is absolutely no reason to delay it.

Why would we want this amazing young woman, who has done so many extraordinary things in her life, to live with this uncertainty 1 minute more than she has to? Why wouldn't we step up and do what we are supposed to do?

I am working on this with colleagues. A number of Republican Senators have been sitting down in my office, even today, trying to work out the details on a compromise. We are not quite there, but there was a determination in our meeting today to get there, to put something together.

I would like to do this before we leave for the holidays. I think it is only right that we try our very best to achieve that, and I think we can. I think if Members of both sides show good faith, we can reach that goal.

I want to especially thank LINDSEY GRAHAM, my cosponsor of the Dream Act, and JEFF FLAKE of Arizona, another cosponsor, who have stepped up and really just shown extraordinary commitment to this cause. We also have LISA MURKOWSKI and CORY GARDNER as well who are cosponsors of the same legislation, and there are other Senators who are working with us behind the scenes to get this done. Some

of them I know are taking a political risk to do it, but they believe it is the right thing to do, and they want to be on the record to be part of the solution. I am looking forward to working with them.

In a few weeks—maybe only 10 days now—Congress is going to adjourn to go home for the holidays, but Dreamers can't go home for the holidays because they really don't have a home. They are homeless in America because they are waiting on us to come up with the legislation that defines their status and gives them a future. Hundreds of thousands of Dreamers can't enjoy the holidays the way many of us can because of their concern about being deported from the United States of America, separated from parents, brothers and sisters, friends, family, and loved ones.

When we introduced the Dream Act, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, a Republican from South Carolina, said: "The moment of reckoning is coming." Well, that moment is here. Congress has the responsibility to do our job to make the Dream Act the law of the land before the end of this year or bear the responsibility for forcing hundreds of thousands of talented young immigrants out of the workforce and putting them at risk of immediate deportation.

The question we face is very basic. Will the United States of America be a better nation if Carla is forced to leave? This woman's determination, her drive, and her talent have brought her to this glorious moment when she finally graduated college. With this degree and with this education, she can offer us so much more and really serve America and its future.

This is the country she loves. She deserves the respect of this country, and she deserves the determination of the Members of the Senate to take this up as a highest priority in the closing days of this Senate session.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Illinois.

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Illinois for all the work he does on behalf of Dreamers throughout the country. His leadership in this effort is absolutely inspiring.

I am here to speak out in favor of passing a clean Dream Act to create a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who enrich our country and strengthen our economy and national security. The passage of the Dream Act is critical to the thousands of Dreamers living in Illinois.

I want to share one young woman's story. This is Christian Villalobos. Christian traveled from Mexico with her mother and younger sister because her mother was fleeing an abusive marriage. At only 6 years old, Christian was brought to the United States not knowing a word of English. She needed to adapt quickly to her new home.

Christian worked hard in school to learn English and made great efforts to

excel in all of her academic subjects. Then, when she was in the third grade, she was diagnosed with a learning disability, which might have caused her to become frustrated and to see a decline in her grades. However, in her own words, she said:

I didn't let that get in the way and I did not let bad influences in my neighborhood get to me. There, in the back of my head, there was always a little voice saying, "Education is the way to a better life."

Christian pushed through and finished middle school and high school as an honor student and, despite her constant hard work and proven academic record, she faced an unexpected obstacle—adults in her life who doubted her ability to attain a college education. As she tells it, many adults in her life simply assumed that an undocumented student like Christian could not obtain a college education. While these doubts broke her heart, she was not deterred.

Christian's hard work, grit, and academic merit all earned her admission to Northern Illinois University where she received a private scholarship. She also worked multiple retail jobs selling flowers, shoes, and clothing to fund her education. Although her future was uncertain, Christian never let up on her academics or her many work responsibilities to put herself through school.

Finally, in the last few years of her college education, she received some relief with the implementation of the DACA Program. In 2015, she became the first person in her family to graduate with a bachelor's degree.

She had a job offer right after graduation which, as anyone can tell you, is not an easy feat. Although her DACA work permit expired that summer, when she had intended to start working full-time, her company was so invested in having her come on board that they worked with Christian to ensure that her DACA work permit was renewed. Their investment was worthwhile. Within the first 2 years at her company, Christian reached No. 1 in sales nationwide. She is now a branch manager of her company and consistently one of the top performers in sales.

Christian also opened doors for other DACA recipients who have joined her at her company and are also excelling in their roles. She is just one of thousands of Dreamers who positively contribute to our Nation.

It is evident that our businesses and communities benefit and thrive from the work ethic and the perseverance Dreamers like Christian possess. There are no truer American values than to work hard, accomplish your goals, and to have the ability to fully contribute to society.

Unfortunately, due to the Trump administration's elimination of DACA, nearly 800,000 of our young people like Christian are now vulnerable to deportation. Thousands of young people who participated in the DACA Program and who are legally in the United States may no longer be able to serve as doc-

tors, teachers, students, and, yes, even servicemembers in our military. This decision will also tear families and communities apart.

I implore my colleagues in the Senate to recognize the contributions of our DACA recipients throughout the country. I urge my colleagues to not shortchange the thousands of Dreamers who learn and work alongside our families and friends. We must do everything we can to make sure the Dream Act is addressed before the holidays.

I will not turn my back on Dreamers like Christian, and I will fight to protect DACA recipients as we work to make the Dream Act the law of the land.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in expressing my support for taking action on the Dream Act, as well as to express my continued opposition to the administration's decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

I thank my colleague Senator DURBIN for organizing today's remarks, as well as for his years of leadership and tireless advocacy on behalf of the Dreamers, along with Senator GRAHAM, who is leading this very important bill with Senator DURBIN.

It is critically important that the Senate pass the Dream Act and not wait any longer to take action. There are 22,000 eligible DACA recipients who did not meet the administration's deadline to renew their statuses, and as a result, about 122 Dreamers are now losing their DACA statuses every day. That is more than 11,000 who have already lost their statuses as of today, and that number will continue to increase every single day that we fail to act. This is nothing on which we can wait—wait a week, wait 1 month, wait 2 months. Every single day, it affects more people. So, while some have suggested that we wait until March to fix this issue, the reality is that the Senate needs to take action now.

Since it was first established in 2012, DACA has helped nearly 800,000 young people who have lived since childhood in the United States to better contribute to their families and communities, including more than 6,000 who are in my State. I recently met with the archbishop of the Twin Cities, along with some of these Dreamers, and we talked about how important this was to the fabric of life in our

community, to our economy in Minnesota—where we have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country—to the Dreamers, and to their communities, themselves.

The Dreamers were brought to our country as children, and they know only one home. That is the United States of America. The average Dreamer has called this country home since he was about 6½ years old. That is the average. Dreamers serve in our military; they pay taxes; and they contribute to communities across our country. More than 97 percent of Dreamers are now in school or in the workforce—97 percent—and all DACA recipients are required to meet the program's education requirements. In fact, 72 percent of all DACA recipients who are currently in school are pursuing bachelor's degrees or higher. According to the American Association of Medical Colleges, more than 100 students with DACA status applied to medical school last year. This is at a time when we have a shortage of doctors in my State, particularly in the rural areas.

The administration's decision to end DACA has created tremendous uncertainty and the risk of deportation for the Dreamers who work and study in the States across our Nation. It, simply, doesn't make economic sense. One recent study estimated that ending this policy would cost the country over \$400 billion over the next 10 years.

I would like to point out to my colleagues that for immigrants as a whole, 25 percent of our U.S. Nobel laureates were born in other countries and that 70 of our Fortune 500 companies are headed up by immigrants. Why would we cut off this talent flow? Look at these DACA recipients. Ninety-seven percent of the Dreamers are working or are in school.

That is why I strongly disagree with the President's decision to end DACA, as do many Republicans, Democrats, business, labor, and religious leaders, and it is why I support the bipartisan Durbin-Graham Dream Act. America is truly a country built by immigrants, but just as importantly, these immigrants and their families have helped America succeed. They have been part of our Nation's greatest achievements.

I look at my own family.

On my dad's side, my great-grandparents came from Slovenia. My great-grandfather worked in the mine, and my grandpa worked in the mine because they needed people to mine iron ore in order to make all of the armaments and all of the ships that helped us to win World War II. That happened. They were so proud of what they had done to contribute to our country's efforts.

On my mom's side, my actual grandparents, who were Swiss, came to this country—my grandma as a 3-year-old, to Wisconsin, with her parents.

My grandpa, when he was about 18 years old, came over. He found out that there was a limit on Swiss immigrants. He somehow got through Canada and

then got through to Wisconsin. He met my grandma and had my mom and her brother, my Uncle Dick, and, at some point, decided that he would try to change his status from "alien" to "legal immigrant." That was when the Congress had just passed the Alien Registration Act. Because World War II was before us, he had to register. That went smoothly, so he decided to apply for citizenship. That was when they discovered that he had entered the country twice—once when he had said that he was going to Canada, on Ellis Island—but he went to Canada only for a week—and the second time when he had gotten through to Wisconsin.

I don't know what would have happened to my grandpa now. Back then, he went through the immigration hearing; he got his status. There is a picture of him in his bow tie—in an old black and white—and he is smiling. He was much older than when he had come to our country and become a citizen. I don't know what would have happened, because what he had done wasn't really legal.

Back then, they said: Do you know what? We want you in our country. You are a worker. You have raised two kids. You live in Milwaukee. We want you to be a citizen. They gave him that citizenship just a few weeks before the United States entered World War II. Otherwise, I guess he would have been deported to Switzerland right in the middle of the war.

That is my story, and everyone has an immigrant story.

The Senate-passed bill, when we did comprehensive reform—and I was one of the people very involved in that on the Judiciary Committee—included a version of the DREAM Act, which would have created a path to citizenship for those eligible for DACA who had graduated from high school and gone on to complete higher education or to serve in the military. We must end this uncertainty for Dreamers. That is why I have joined with so many of my colleagues in calling on Leader McConnell to hold a vote.

Here is a Dreamer whom I will never forget. I was trying to find examples for people in my State so that they may understand what this "Dreamer" term is all about, and I found one a few years ago—Joseph Medina. At the time, he was 99 years old, and he was a decorated Army veteran. We lost him only last month at age 103. He told me his story back when he was 99.

He was brought to our country from Mexico when he was 5 years old. He had no idea that he was not born in our country. He grew up in Sleepy Eye, MN. Then he signed up to serve in World War II. That was when they had found out that he was, in fact, undocumented and had not been born in our country. Back then, as he had described it to me, the military had wanted people to serve, so they had him go to Canada. At the direction of our military, he went to Canada for 1 night, stayed—his words—in a nice

hotel and then came back to Minnesota, and—magic—he was legal. He served under General MacArthur in the Pacific. He then came back to the United States, met his wife, got married, and had kids. His son served in the Vietnam war.

I had the privilege of hosting him at the World War II Memorial, which he had never seen before—with his son, who is a Vietnam vet—so that he could see the memorial for the first and the last time. With us were two Dreamers from high schools in the suburban Twin Cities area who wanted to serve in the Air Force but couldn't because we don't have the same rules we had during World War II. It was, basically, because of their statuses that they couldn't serve.

We lost Joseph Medina—the advocate that he was not only in words but by example—just last month. I think of his service, and when I see him standing in front of that memorial with those two Dreamers who weren't themselves allowed to serve, it really hits home to me and to everyone who has heard his story as to what these Dreamers are all about.

We all have our stories, and we owe it to these Dreamers and we owe it to our country and the values of our country to stand up for these Dreamers. I stand with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have spoken out in support of the Dream Act and who agree that we must take action in the Senate to protect these Dreamers in the name of Joseph Medina and in the name of all of our relatives who have always come from somewhere. Let's get this done.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WALL STREET AND WORKERS' WAGES

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this month, this body has spent much of its time pushing a tax bill that rewards corporations that ship jobs overseas while doing nothing for hard-working families. It has spent time cutting taxes on the wealthiest people in the country—cutting taxes for corporations that ship jobs overseas and giving them more incentives to do it by the way they have actually constructed the bill and rewarding their largest billionaire contributors. At the same time, they have ignored the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Letters are going out to families. There are 200,000 children in my State who are enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program. Parents in many States are getting letters from