

mathematical biology is, but she is majoring in it at Texas Tech. She is focusing on a better understanding of biological data and disease. She teaches undergraduate students as a graduate teaching assistant. What is her dream in America? To use mathematics to advance research to cure diseases like cancer.

Let me read you what she wrote to me. She said:

I am an aspiring scientist and hope to continue my research in mathematical biology. Currently, there's an ever increasing need for computational and mathematical analysis of biological phenomena, specifically in the areas of bioinformatics and medicine. I hope to contribute to this field and give back to my country just as this country has contributed to my education. . . . Without DACA, I would have been forced to continue living a life in the shadows, a life with constant upper bounds, and a life that is imprisoned in the very country I call home.

Saba is what this debate is all about. There are those who say: We are too busy to do this; we will get back to it later. There are those who say: Well, I am sure she is a very talented person, but she is illegal, you know.

There are those who say we are fools to let a talent like this leave America. We are crazy to give up on such amazing young people.

We are wrong to call them lazy, for goodness' sakes. There isn't a lazy bone in this young woman's body. I don't think so. What she has achieved is nothing short of a miracle as an undocumented student in America.

Some others have argued: Well, she can stay, but you have to punish her parents. We have to make them leave the United States of America.

There has to be a better way. Yes. Was it wrong? Did it, maybe, even violate a law for them to bring her here? What parent wouldn't do it if it meant survival or if it meant a future for a child? We can make them pay a price. In the comprehensive immigration bill, there is a fine and a long waiting period. All of the things could be included in here.

For goodness' sakes, this young lady and her family can be an important part of America's future if and when we decide in the U.S. Senate that she is worth our effort. We will have that chance soon. We will start the debate soon. Young people like her will listen to this debate because they know what is at stake and whether there is any future for them in the United States of America.

For goodness' sakes, in the name of justice, in the name of the values that made this country what it is today, we ought to stand up on a bipartisan basis and solve this problem in a humane and sensible way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, once again, I rise to talk about the Dreamers.

I thank Senator DURBIN for his leadership. I know the leader will be com-

ing in shortly, and I will yield when he arrives.

I thank Senator DURBIN for leading the Dream Act with Senator GRAHAM—for negotiating for years and years to get support on the Republican side of the aisle, for never giving up, and for telling the stories, as we have just heard, to bring this home to people—so people understand that this is not just a number, that this is not just a statistic, that this is not just someone whom you call a name. These are people who are part of the United States of America. Ninety-seven percent of them work or are in school. The average age they were brought over was 6½ years old.

Like Senator DURBIN, Senator GRAHAM, and many of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I am and always have been committed to passing a legislative solution to protect Dreamers. I appreciate the Presiding Officer's interest in this issue and the group that we have, the Common Sense Caucus, that has been working together in debating this and trying to come together to allow for the Dreamers to have a path to citizenship, to allow them to stay in our country, to stop the deportation of what would be something like 800,000 people—something the President of the United States has firmly said he does not want to do. He wants to see a path to citizenship along with increased border security.

I see that the leader has arrived, and I will continue my remarks when he has completed his.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 599 and 602.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Barbara Stewart, of Illinois, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service; and Brett Giroir, of Texas, to be Medical Director in the Regular Corps of the Public Health Service, subject to the qualifications therefor as provided by law and regulations, and to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc

with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Stewart and Giroir nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session.

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

SUPPORTING THE OBSERVATION OF "NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH"

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 385.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 385) supporting the observation of "National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month" during the period beginning on January 1, 2018, and ending on February 1, 2018, to raise awareness of, and opposition to, human trafficking and modern slavery.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 29, 2018, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions which were submitted earlier today: S. Res. 397, S. Res. 398, and S. Res. 399.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

CHILD PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2017—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

DACA

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I will continue my remarks about the importance of passing the Dream Act and the work of the Common Sense Caucus, in which the Presiding Officer has been involved, to try to find a path forward to protect these Dreamers while understanding the combination that we could have for increased border security at the same time.

What you have going on right now in our country is fear, as Senator DURBIN has pointed out, with over 800,000 people who have been here, as I said, through no fault of their own and with 97 percent of them working or in school. Just yesterday, I met with the Catholic Conference—people from the Catholic Church in my State—and some of the Dreamers, and I heard again of the account of someone who is in school and is doing well, who wants to work, and who wants to stay in our State. When I hear these stories, I am always reminded of the oldest Dreamer I ever met, Joseph Medina, who was born in Mexico.

He came over to this country and didn't know he had been brought over to the country illegally. His parents had died. He grew up in Sleepy Eye, MN—a little town. He decided to sign up to serve our country during World War II. He then found out he was undocumented. When I met him at age 99, in his words, back then, the military took you over to Canada for a night, and you stayed in a hotel. You came back, and you were a citizen because they wanted you to serve in the military. He then served bravely under General MacArthur. He came back to the United States and got married and had a son. That son served our country in the Vietnam war.

I met their entire family and stood with them in front of the World War II Memorial when he was 99 years old—Joseph Medina—along with two other Dreamers, who were two kids from a Minnesota suburban high school who wanted to join the Air Force, but, at the time, they were not able to. He wanted them to be able to serve our country just as he had served our country. He died just this last year at age 103. I am doing it for him and for the 6,000 Dreamers who live in Minnesota.

As we know, we have been seeing them lose their DACA status since the administration's decision. Not only would this mean deportation if we don't do something about this, it means people will basically be led away from their jobs—people who are teaching school, who are working at jobs in our hospitals and in our neighborhoods, and suddenly they will not be able to work. We cannot let that happen in America, and I cannot let that happen in our State. That is why we must continue this work. We must get this done and the sooner, the better.

The Dream Act is based on a simple principle. Dreamers were brought to the United States as children and only know this country as their home, and they should be given the opportunity to contribute to our Nation and become citizens.

Passing the Dream Act isn't just the morally right thing to do, which the majority of Americans agree with, it also makes economic sense. One recent study estimated that ending DACA could cost the country over \$400 billion over the next 10 years. It would cost Minnesota more than \$376 million in annual revenue and have an immeasurable impact on families who would be ripped apart.

The unemployment rate in my State is in the 3-percent range, and this population is working in our State and an important part of our State's employment force, just as our legal refugees are. That is why this rhetoric and some of the things we are hearing about Dreamers isn't good.

I truly appreciate those Republicans in the Senate, including the Presiding Officer, who have been willing to work with us on this issue and talk to the people in their States to try to come together on passing some version of the Dream Act and allowing these Dreamers to stay.

We will continue this fight. We stand in support of the Dream Act, we stand in support of those Dreamers, and we work every single day to find a solution.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Thank you, Mr. President.

I am honored to rise after my distinguished colleagues from Minnesota and Illinois to issue a simple demand: We must act now to pass legislation protecting the Dreamers against mass, draconian deportation. We must act now effectively, not cosmetically or superficially. We must act now without unacceptable preconditions and hostage-taking amendments that cut immigration—a betrayal of our American values.

We cannot ask Dreamers to languish in uncertainty any longer. These young people are Americans in all but name. They grew up in this country, and they went to our schools. They serve in our military and support our economy.

They epitomize the American dream. These young people work hard, and they give back. Deporting Dreamers would be cruel, irrational, inhumane, and very simply repugnant to the American values that every Member of this Chamber holds dear.

When DACA was adopted in 2012, it changed the lives of these young people. It opened new doors to opportunity. Dreamers could come out of the shadows. They could use driver's licenses, attend college, and fully participate in our economy.

When DACA was adopted, we made a promise to the Dreamers. We promised that if they come forward and provide the U.S. Government with their most basic personal and private information, this information will never be used against them. We assured them that they have a place in this country. Now, with the complicity of this body, that promise is about to be broken. I say "complicity" because the President, in September, is the one who committed the act of breaking that promise by saying that he was going to end the DACA Program, and he gave Congress 6 months to remedy that broken promise. He threw to Congress a ticking time bomb that literally would rip apart the lives of 800,000 or 1.8 million—the numbers vary; the principle is the same. Ripping apart their lives would be the consequence.

I have said it before, and I am going to say it again. Great countries do not break their promises. The United States is the greatest country in the history of the world. We should not be breaking our promises. We should not even threaten to break our promises to innocent young people, men and women who know only this country and whose whole lives are here.

The President's decision to rescind DACA threatens to tear them away from their families, their jobs, and their communities, where they make a difference for the better. It is threatening their lives with total disarray, forcing them to go back to countries where they barely lived and have no life. It derails their future. We are a country better than this kind of inhumanity.

I want to talk again about Jonathan Gonzales-Cruz, a college student at Southern Connecticut State University. He is shown here, and I am behind him. He was attending a rally in support of the Dreamers, but I had the privilege of meeting Jonathan well before this rally. He shared his story with me, and I shared it with this Chamber in January.

Jonathan was born in Mexico. He came to the United States when he was just 4 years old. The United States is his home. It is the only country he has ever known. He is set to graduate this spring with honors in economics and math after receiving a full scholarship to attend Southern Connecticut State University.

Like many, due to the President's rescission of DACA and this Chamber's