

they have to work. If the Court rules in favor of President Trump on DACA, 200,000 essential American workers will be sidelined and deported, even as we fight this pandemic.

Last month, I sent a letter to the President—37 of my colleagues joined me—urging him to extend the work authorization for DACA recipients, not to make their future depend on what happens in the Court. The President has the authority to say that, at least until the end of the calendar year—or beyond, I hope—we are not going to deport these young people, and we are not going to take their jobs away, particularly those in the healthcare industry.

But if you consider President Trump's attitude toward immigrants, you know he is likely to forge ahead with his decision to deport the Dreamers. That means we have to do our part.

I worked with Republican Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, to include a provision to automatically extend work authorizations for DACA recipients in the CARES Act that Congress just passed a few weeks ago. We presented it to the leaders on a bipartisan basis. We had the approval of Senate Democratic leader CHUCK SCHUMER and Speaker of the House NANCY PELOSI, but not the Republican leader in the Senate. He stopped us from extending this protection. I don't know what his situation is in Kentucky, but I can tell you that in Illinois, we need every one of these healthcare workers we have today. We can't afford to lose them. To think that 41,000 DACA recipients and another 11,000 TPS critical healthcare workers would be deported would mean that many Americans who count on these great professionals are going to get less care and perhaps terrible results.

As Congress debates the next legislation to address the COVID-19 pandemic, I will continue pushing for this provision. It is not too much to ask that if these people simply want to be working in ERs and hospitals, risking their lives for all of us, that they at least have the peace of mind to know that they can stay until the end of the calendar year. That is all I am asking for. Is it too much to ask? Some of them are suffering, and their families are suffering too. All they want is the authority to stay here.

Last year, the House of Representatives passed the Dream and Promise Act, based on the Dream Act, with a strong vote. Senator MCCONNELL has refused to call it in the Senate. It could help us. I wish he would consider it.

I have come to the floor over 100 times and told the stories of Dreamers. I don't think there is any better way to make the case—meet them, know them, realize what they brought to America and what they bring each day.

Today, I want to tell you the story of this man. His name is Manuel Bernal. He works in the emergency department at the Advocate Christ Medical Center.

Manuel was brought to the United States when he was 2 years old. He grew up in Memphis, TN. He always wanted to become a doctor. He wrote me a letter, and he said:

Early on, I developed an appreciation for the medical profession when I witnessed the compassionate care received by a loved one at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Manuel graduated in the top 10 percent of his hospital class. He was a leader of several high school honor societies. In his spare time, he was a swimmer, a football player, and volunteered at the St. Jude Club and the Key Club.

He continued his education at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He graduated summa cum laude in biology with a minor in chemistry. In college, he worked as a medical scribe for doctors in the emergency room at a small community hospital in Chattanooga. After this experience, he decided he wanted to go all the way. He wanted to become an emergency room physician. He continued his education at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine.

Allow me a few seconds to praise this wonderful school. He was one of dozens of DACA recipients at Stritch, which was the first medical school to admit DACA students. They do not receive any special treatment in the selection process, and they are not eligible for a penny in Federal financial assistance. Many of them borrowed money from the State of Illinois to complete their medical education in the hopes that once they are licensed, they can come back and practice in our State, which they promise to do.

Here is what Manuel says DACA means to him:

DACA has undoubtedly opened up many doors for me. It meant allowing me to obtain my dream of serving others through emergency medicine. If DACA ended, I would be forced to stop doing not only what I love doing but what I trained so hard to do.

Today, Dr. Manuel Bernal is an emergency room resident at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Chicago, one of the busiest trauma hospitals in our city. His supervisor told him he did not have to treat COVID-19 patients because he is only a resident, but he stepped forward and volunteered to do it anyway.

Manuel's DACA is set to expire in October, 5 months from now. Will America be stronger if this doctor leaves? Will they be better at Advocate Christ Medical Center, the trauma hospital, if Manuel was forced to leave this country? I can't imagine anyone would answer yes.

Manuel and hundreds of thousands of other Dreamers are counting on the Supreme Court to reject President Trump's abolition of DACA and counting on us who serve in the Senate to solve this crisis President Trump alone created. As long as I am a U.S. Senator, I will continue to come to the floor of the Senate to advocate for Manuel and for thousands of others

who simply want a chance to prove themselves to earn their way into America's future. It would be an American tragedy at this moment when we face this national emergency to lose these brave and talented young people. They are saving lives every day, and they are risking their own to do it. Can we ask anything more of anyone else in this country? We must ensure that Manuel and hundreds of thousands of others in our essential workforce are not forced to stop working when their services are needed now more than ever.

Ultimately, we need to pass legislation that is just common sense, that says these young people who came here as kids and have worked doubly hard under the greatest of pressures and have made a success of their lives, like this young man, can stay in America and be part of our future. He is truly a healthcare hero, and he is an immigrant. He is an immigrant healthcare hero, and there are thousands just like him across America. We need them now more than ever.

I see that Senator CORTEZ MASTO is here. I know she wants to speak on this subject.

I yield the floor to her.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Nevada.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

DACA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I rise, along with my good friend and colleague, the senior Senator from Illinois, to stress the importance of what is happening in this country right now and who is on the frontline during this healthcare crisis and why we need to support them. There is no doubt.

I just came from Nevada. There are so many essential workers who are risking their lives, as well as their loved ones, to provide essential care and help for individuals, not just in Nevada but across the country. We are talking about healthcare workers. We are talking about transit drivers, sanitation workers, first responders. We are talking about those who are working with the grocery stores, showing up every day to make sure that individuals in need can have the groceries they so require during this healthcare crisis.

So much is at stake right now. I do not want to forget all of those State and local government workers. Right now in my State, there are so many

State workers who are showing up to ensure that individuals get the essential paycheck or the expanded unemployment insurance that we fought to make sure they can receive, and they are showing up, as well.

I, too, stand with my colleague because I think it is important that we recognize not only our healthcare workers but some of those who need extra help from this legislature. We have spent, unfortunately, the last 3 years of this administration attacking them. These are our immigrants in Nevada and across this country who are actually going out every day and risking their lives to help others in need, and they are working in our healthcare.

One of them I rise to talk about today is Anna Ledesma. She is a DACA recipient in Nevada, and she works in a pediatric ICU in Nevada as a nurse, in Las Vegas. Anna has been in the United States since she was 7 years old. She got interested in medicine because an aunt who was a nurse thought it would be the perfect career for her. Her aunt was right. Anna loves biology and she loves learning how disease process works. But, most of all, Anna loves her patients. She said: "I love connecting with them over Disney stuff." Anna will tell you: "I think I'm a good pediatric nurse because at heart, I'm still a kid too."

All across Nevada, immigrants like Anna are working on the frontlines to help others in need during this healthcare crisis. They are working as teachers for children learning from home. They are staffing retirement homes, taking care of at-risk seniors in the middle of a pandemic that targets our elders. They are harvesting, they are shelving, and they are cooking food for all of us.

More than 200,000 DACA recipients in the United States are on the frontlines of healthcare, education, agriculture, and other essential jobs. There are almost 5,000 of them in Nevada alone among the 12,000 Nevada DACA recipients. These are our friends, and they are our neighbors.

Yet this administration continues to demonize them with anti-immigrant rhetoric and has turned their lives upside down by trying to end DACA. These are the young professionals at risk if the Supreme Court upholds President Trump's decision to terminate DACA.

These young men and women have grown up in our communities, and they are giving back. Even in the face of their uncertain futures, they are still showing up to work each shift and still demonstrating by their everyday heroism that they belong here.

Now, more than ever, we need to understand that those who come to America in search of a better life don't diminish us. They enrich us. You can see how cruel and twisted the immigration debate in this country has become if you just think about this: In the middle of a worldwide health crisis, when

they should be focused on keeping their patients alive and limiting their own exposure, the 27,000 DACA recipients in healthcare have to worry about their own legal status.

Anna says that the health crisis her hospital is facing has almost managed to push out the fear that is always in the back of her mind about attacks on DACA and attacks on her future—almost, because it never really goes away. A few weeks ago, Anna was transferred to other parts of the hospital to help adult patients with COVID-19. She told me about the utter isolation of these patients who are fighting for their lives far from their loved ones. She told me about former University Medical Center friends and colleagues, now in New York and in Seattle, who are witnessing the same scenes.

Lately, the number of children suffering from COVID-19 has increased in Nevada. Anna is back in the pediatric ICU, where patients are mostly asymptomatic. With these healthier patients, it is easier to do what she does best, which is to teach kids the things they need to know about a procedure or an operation they are facing, distracting them and making them laugh.

We need to let Anna do her job. We need to let the thousands of immigrants who are on the frontline right now continue to do their jobs. We must allow her to keep serving the only community she has ever known. We need to create a pathway for citizenship for so many like Anna. We need to give them all the tools they need to keep themselves and the rest of us healthy.

Anna's story is an American story—one of struggle, courage, and sacrifice for your community in order to build a brighter future for those who come after.

I am going to continue to fight for DACA recipients and immigrants like Anna and everyone else who has contributed, not just in my State but in this country, to not only enrich all of our lives but to continue to contribute to our economy and to make our lives better. The least we can do is to give them peace of mind and let them know that the only country they have ever known is one they can stay in forever. That is my fight. I hope that is the Presiding Officer's fight and of many of my colleagues. This is something that must be done. We have to pass legislation to make sure Dreamers in this country and their parents have every opportunity to stay and find that pathway to citizenship. They are already contributing.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Nevada. Anna's story is so touching. This young girl, concerned about her own future, worried about deportation, gets into a giving, caring profession and risks her life in caring for those who may be suffering from COVID-19. To think some-

one would question whether we want that kind of person in America's future is beyond me.

Thank you for telling that story. It is an important part of the RECORD.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. This week, amid the devastating coronavirus pandemic, we saw what world powers are supposed to do—join forces to raise funds to research, manufacture, and distribute a vaccine and treatments. This makes obvious strategic and lifesaving sense, being both the moral and strategic thing to do. All of us joining forces and working together will help speed up efforts and the eventual discovery and distribution of a coronavirus vaccine that we all desperately seek. Many of us believe that until that day comes when that vaccine proves to be effective and safe and is widely distributed, we are going to still see what we call our normal lives compromised. So there is no greater priority. This effort will save lives around America and around the world.

Who knows where that vaccine is going to be discovered, produced, or distributed? I want America in on this conversation from the start and end on the collective efforts. Clearly, other world leaders understand this. So when there was an effort to raise \$8 billion for the discovery of this new vaccine, they had a virtual global telephone conference. Our allies in the European Union and Norway offered to give \$1 billion each toward this goal. Who was absent from this critical effort to save lives around the world, to discover this vaccine, including the distribution of it to those who need it in every corner of the world? Which country did not participate in this global virtual telephone conference? The United States of America.

In yet another shortsighted, missed opportunity to address the coronavirus, this administration refused to participate. America was missing in action when leaders around the world came together with the determination to find and distribute a vaccine against coronavirus. The President's supporters in Congress said nothing, focusing instead on judicial appointments and other things on their mind.

Given this President's penchant for blaming others but not himself for any mishandling of this viral contagion, maybe his dereliction of duty in this global conference should come as no surprise, but it does because of the devastating consequences that could result. What does this mean for America if the United States sits on the sidelines while other countries set out to discover this lifesaving vaccine?

Well, we still continue to have some of the best researchers in the world at the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the many university and private researchers around this country. Many NIH-funded researchers have