

for the veterans on Memorial Day weekend.

In a March 13 letter to President Trump, these veterans asked him to ensure “that the men and women who served their country honorably are not burdened with student loans that result from fraud.”

I ask unanimous consent that the March 13 letter to President Trump be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MARCH 13, 2020.

Hon. DONALD J. TRUMP,
The White House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT TRUMP: In August 2019, you stood with veterans in directing the Education Department to ensure that all totally and permanently disabled veterans would have their student loans forgiven. We were so grateful to you then. We write now to ask that you please stand with servicemembers, veterans, their families, and survivors again in supporting a bipartisan resolution, H.J. Res 76, which would help veterans and military-connected students get relief from student loans they incurred as a result of fraud.

With a bipartisan vote in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, it is clear the support of Congress for veterans, servicemembers, and their families and survivors stands above partisan politics.

Please join us in ensuring that the men and women who have served their country honorably are not burdened with student loans that result from fraud. This has been an important priority for veterans organizations as reflected in a letter from 27 veterans organizations to the Education Department and a letter from 37 veterans organizations to Congress.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Air Force Sergeants Association; Army Aviation Association of America; Association of the United States Navy; AMSUS, the Society of Federal Health Professionals; Blue Star Families; Chief Warrant & Warrant Officers Association, U.S. Coast Guard; Code of Support Foundation; Fleet Reserve Association; High Ground Veterans Advocacy; Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Ivy League Veterans Council; Norman Rosenshein, Jewish War Veterans of the USA.

The Military Chaplains Assn. of the USA; John Ballantyne, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Military Child Education Coalition; Dana T. Atkins, Military Officers Association of America; Douglas J. Greenlaw, Military Order of the Purple Heart; National Military Family Association; Non Commissioned Officers Assn. of the United States of America; Service to School; Service Women's Action Network; Student Veterans of America; Swords to Plowshares; Laura L'Esperance, The Mission Continues.

Kenneth Greenberg, The Retired Enlisted Association; Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors; Randy Reid, U.S. Coast Guard Chief Petty Officers Association & Enlisted Association; Veterans Education Success; Danielle Applegate, Vets First; Veterans for Common Sense; Robert F. Muth, Veterans Legal Clinic, University of San Diego School of Law; Veterans Student Loan Relief Fund; Vietnam Veterans of America.

Mr. DURBIN. President Trump has the opportunity to be the one who rescues these defrauded veterans from a rule that the American Legion has en-

titled “fundamentally rigged against defrauded borrowers” and give these Americans who served our country not just a pat on the back but a chance to get back in the game in their lives.

American voters are behind us, overwhelmingly, from both political parties. New polling by Third Way finds that voters in key red and swing States believe that the Federal Government should not make students who took out loans to attend fraudulent or misleading institutions of higher education pay back those loans.

In Ohio, 73 percent of voters believed this, 68 percent in Indiana, 64 percent in Colorado, 63 percent Pennsylvania, 61 percent Missouri and North Carolina, and 60 percent South Carolina. When asked if schools that mislead student borrowers should be held accountable, the numbers are dramatically higher, and 95 percent of Republicans in North Carolina agree and 91 percent of Republicans in South Carolina. The list goes on.

The DeVos borrower defense rule would make it impossible for defrauded borrowers to get the relief that the American people and I believe they deserve. It will lessen accountability for the schools that defrauded these borrowers. They are just going to do it again. God forbid we loan these defrauding schools money in the current economic crisis so they can continue to defraud veterans and other students.

This isn't a controversial issue among the American people, just among politicians. By signing this resolution, President Trump will be supporting America's veterans, Democratic and Republican voters. I hope he listens.

IMMIGRANT HEALTHCARE HEROES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Americans owe a great deal of gratitude to healthcare workers on the frontlines of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. I can't tell you how many heartbreaking stories I have read of these healthcare workers who are so depressed over the number of infections, the suffering that people are going through, and, of course, those whose lives have been taken by this coronavirus. I can't imagine what it is like physically and mentally, what they go through. Bless them. Bless them for caring enough for us and for our families to risk their own lives and go to work every single day.

I want to spend a minute talking about a special group of these healthcare workers—immigrants. That is right—immigrants. Consider this: 1 in 6 healthcare and social service workers is an immigrant; 3.1 million out of 18.7 million. Over 3 million immigrants.

These immigrants are playing a crucial role in the battle against the pandemic. Yet, the President continues to disparage them falsely, claiming they are a drain on society. He wishes they would leave. I hope they never do.

I have come to the floor to tell the story of one. I will continue to highlight these stories because we need to put faces on this issue. You need to understand who these people are, these people who are immigrants to this country and willing to risk their lives to save ours. I invite my colleagues to do the same. Tell the stories in your own States. I can guarantee you, wherever you are from, there are immigrant health heroes.

Not to take anything away from those who are not new immigrants, but these people need special attention at a time when there is so much criticism of immigration to this country of immigrants. Many of these healthcare workers are young immigrants who came here as children. They are known as Dreamers. I know because 20 years ago, I introduced the DREAM Act so that these young people, brought to this country as toddlers, infants, and little kids, could have a chance to be part of a future. They are American in every way except their immigration status.

I joined with Republican Dick Lugar years ago on a bipartisan basis, calling on the President to use his authority to protect these Dreamers from being deported. President Obama responded. He created the DACA Program. DACA provided temporary protection from deportation to Dreamers if they registered with the government, paid a \$500 filing fee, went through a criminal background check, and had no serious problems. They were allowed to stay 2 years at a time, not be deported, and legally work in America.

More than 800,000 Dreamers came forward and received DACA protection, and let me tell you what they did. They turned around and became teachers, nurses, soldiers, small business owners, and 100 other things important to America.

Listen to this: More than 200,000 DACA recipients are essential critical infrastructure workers. I didn't make that up; that number came out of President Trump's own Department of Homeland Security. Among these essential workers are 41,700 DACA recipients in the healthcare industry. These include doctors, intensive care nurses, paramedics, and respiratory therapists. Understand this: These are undocumented people in America, brought here as children, grew up here, went to school here, got an education, developed skills and training, and now we need them in this pandemic—41,700 of them.

On September 5, 2017, President Trump repealed DACA. Hundreds of thousands of Dreamers faced losing their work permits and being deported from this country to places that many of them barely remember. Thank goodness the court stepped in to stop the President's action, but the President decided to appeal the case, and now, across the street in the Supreme Court, they are sitting on a case that will decide the fate of 800,000 of these DACA

protectees, many of them—thousands of them healthcare workers who are doing essential work every day. We can get a decision from the Court any day.

Will we be better off if 41,000 of these DACA healthcare professionals are deported from this country in the midst of this pandemic? No sensible person believes we would be. If the Court rules in favor of President Trump, up to 200,000 essential workers in America would be sidelined in the middle of this national emergency. Many of them face deportation.

I sent a letter to the President, with 37 of my Senate colleagues last month, urging him to extend the work authorization for DACA recipients to the end of the year. It is not too much to ask. They have lived in this country for years, and they passed a criminal background check.

For goodness' sake, Mr. President, don't get tough on these people when we need them the most.

But if you consider what the President said about immigrants over and over again, I know it is unlikely that he is going to have a moment of caring when it comes to their future, so Congress has to step in.

The HEROES Act, which the House of Representatives passed last week and which we did not even consider this week in the U.S. Senate, includes a provision to automatically extend work authorizations for DACA recipients. This is what they are talking about when critics of that House action come to the floor and talk about all the benefits for undocumented people living in this country—the extension of DACA protection for thousands of essential workers in this country who are protected by DACA.

They say: Oh, it sounds like they are opening the doors for illegal people to come in here and get royal treatment in America.

The opposite is true. These are people who are risking their lives providing healthcare and essential services across America. The HEROES Act that passed in the House of Representatives simply said we are not going to deport them. What a radical suggestion, that we could use their help and we need their help through the rest of the year. We certainly do. Those who come and mock this provision by saying it is just a giveaway to illegal immigrants are really doing a disservice to these people and the sacrifice they are making.

Ultimately, we need to give these Dreamers a chance to become citizens. I believe it now, and I have believed it for 20 years. It has been that long since I introduced the DREAM Act, a bipartisan bill, which would accomplish that.

Last year, the Congress passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would have solved this problem based on the DREAM Act. The vote was 237 to 187 in the House. Leader McCONNELL has refused to even consider calling that measure for consideration in the Senate. And it isn't because we are over-

worked; just take a look at this empty Chamber.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate more than 100 times to tell the stories of Dreamers. I want you to know who they are. These stories show what is at stake when we consider the future of DACA.

Today, I want to tell you about Javier Quiroz Castro. Here is Javier dressed for work. He is the 121st Dreamer whose story I have told on the Senate floor.

Javier's parents brought him to the United States when he was 3 years old. He grew up in Nashville, TN. His father worked in construction as a bricklayer. His mother cleaned homes and office buildings. As the oldest child and the best English speaker, Javier took care of his three younger siblings and helped his family navigate the challenges of being in America.

Javier went to a private Christian college in Nashville, Lipscomb University. At Lipscomb, he discovered his love of nursing. He enrolled in the school of nursing and did his clinical training at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Javier graduated in May 2013 with his bachelor's in science of nursing. Javier received the Spirit of Nursing Award, which each year is given to only one nursing student who has best delivered quality care.

Because President Obama established DACA in 2012, Javier had a chance. Before that, he had no chance to become a registered nurse in this country. But he had a chance, and he took advantage of it.

Javier now lives in Houston, TX, and works at Houston Methodist Hospital. He is part of the team taking care of patients with COVID-19. This is what he wears to work.

Javier wrote me a letter. Here is what he said:

Thanks to DACA, I have been able to save a lot of lives. I have been able to be there with patients at their final moments of life. I have been able to take care of people of many different backgrounds, nationalities, races, socioeconomic levels, and cultures.

This wouldn't be complete if I didn't introduce you to Javier's daughter. Take a look at this beautiful little girl. This is Isabelle Quiroz. A few weeks ago, she took her first steps. I bet you she is about the same age as my granddaughter, whose birthday is Friday of this week. She is about to take her first steps too. This beautiful little girl, Javier's little girl, her faith and future are at stake, too, in this debate in the U.S. Senate.

I want to wish Isabelle a happy birthday tomorrow and my little granddaughter Jill a happy birthday on Friday.

Javier's wife is also a nurse. She and Javier worry every day about not infecting their baby daughter as they go to work to save other people, but they still get up every day and go to work to care for their patients.

I want to thank Javier Quiroz Castro for his service. He is indeed a

healthcare hero. He is an immigrant healthcare hero. He puts himself and his family at risk in order to save American lives. He shouldn't have to worry about a decision across the street at the Supreme Court which would deport him back to a country he cannot even remember.

We must do better. We are better than that as a country, to say to someone like Javier: Well, thank you for working so darn hard. Thank you for getting through nursing school with the highest grades. Thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for risking your life for America. But I am sorry, buddy, you are undocumented. Get out of the country.

The bill that passed the House would protect him until the end of the year—until the end of the year. Yet Members come to the floor and mock this bill and say: Oh, you are trying to give things away to illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants like Javier? Get real. Get serious. Be human.

We have to do better for Javier and the DACA recipients. They are counting on us—those of us in the Senate—to solve this crisis created by President Trump's action.

As long as I am a Senator, I will continue to come to the floor of the Senate to advocate for Javier and the Dreamers. I have done it for a long time, but the job is not finished. It would be an American tragedy to deport this brave and talented nurse who is saving lives in Houston, TX, as we speak. We must ensure that Javier and hundreds of thousands of others in our essential workforce are not forced to stop working when we need them the most.

Ultimately, we need to pass legislation that demonstrates who we are, what we believe in, and what our values are. What does it say about America if we say to Javier "We don't need you"? We do. We need him and so many just like him who are performing essential services at this time of national emergency.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

THOUSAND TALENTS PLAN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor of the Senate to talk about how the tragic spread of the coronavirus around the world underscored the need for us to focus on the persistent challenge of China not playing by the rules.

In the case of coronavirus, that was about China not telling the World Health Organization, not telling other countries, and not telling their own people what was happening in terms of the coronavirus and not taking steps to stop international travel early on. That wasn't playing by the WHO rules—the World Health Organization rules—and the result has been devastation. It has meant the spread of the virus. So much of that devastation we