

[Rollcall Vote No. 301 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Paul
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Cornyn	Justice	Schmitt
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lee	Sheehy
Cruz	Lummis	Sullivan
Curtis	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young

NAYS—44

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Shaheen
Booker	King	Slotkin
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Luján	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Fetterman	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—5

Budd	Ossoff	Tillis
Gallego	Reed	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 117, Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, Katie Boyd Britt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

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Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
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Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—5

Budd	Ossoff	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Andrew Hughes, of Texas, to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

DREAM ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it was over 20 years ago that our office was contacted in Chicago. It was a young woman named Tereza Lee. She had been born in Korea and as an infant was taken to Brazil. And then her father, who was a Protestant minister, brought her and her mother to Chicago.

She contacted our office because she had a problem when it came to her citi-

zenship. It seems that the decision to move her around as an infant, made by her parents, left her undocumented.

Her family didn't have a lot of money. She grew up with her father who was a Protestant minister, trying to find the proper church. And she went from church to church as her father preached sermons and made a few dollars to keep the family together.

While her father was practicing his sermons at the church, she was in the back room banging away at the piano. As a student in public schools in Chicago, she got her first opportunity for real lessons through something called the Merit Music Program. She was great—extraordinary.

By the time she finished high school, people recognized in her an extraordinary musical genius. They encouraged her to apply to the best—Juilliard and Manhattan Conservatory of Music. As she filled out the application to go to these great schools, she would run across that question: What is your nationality? What is your citizenship?

She never thought to ask. Turns out she was undocumented. She didn't know what that meant in terms of her future, and a friend of hers contacted our office to see what we could do.

The law is very clear for Tereza Lee. Although it was her parents and others who made decisions in her life that resulted in an undocumented status, the law of the United States said that she had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in.

Didn't sound right to me. She didn't make any of those decisions; her parents did. She had done everything she was supposed to do: go to school, get good grades, develop her talent. And yet, we were rejecting her and sending her out of the country.

It is at that point that I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. If you talked about Dreamers before that bill was introduced, most people would refer you to the British rock group Freddie and the Dreamers, which very few people remember.

But since then, the word "Dreamers" has come to characterize these young people who, by decisions of their parents, are in the United States undocumented.

Today, we mark the 13th anniversary of the program called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. It is a program which affects these Dreamers and their future.

I first introduced the DREAM Act with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch in 2001—24 years ago. I have included it in many forms of legislation that comes to the Senate floor, repeatedly introduced it as an amendment over the years. I have never quite been able to reach the point where I can meet the 60-vote requirement to waive the filibuster or to pass it in the House the same year.

After years of congressional action, in 2010, I wrote a letter to a man who is my former colleague from Illinois who had been elected President of the

United States, Barrack Obama. And I asked him—and Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican from Indiana, joined me in asking President Obama if he could do something to stop the deportation of these young Dreamers.

Two years later, President Obama announced the DACA Program. The DACA Program has protected nearly 835,000 Dreamers, many of whom who have gone on to pursue higher education, purchase homes, start businesses, and make America a better country to live in.

These young people who grew up in this country alongside my own kids, went to school, stood up in the morning before class and pledged allegiance to that flag and believed that they were real Americans from the start—but not in the eyes of the law.

DACA recipients have started families; 37 percent have U.S. citizen children; and 935,000 U.S. citizens live with DACA holders. It is a large chunk of our population, and they have done dramatic things to make this a better country.

DACA recipients greatly contribute to our labor force. They are teachers, nurses, workers, doctors, and more. They boost our economy, providing nearly \$16 billion to the U.S. economy each year.

I have been coming to the Senate floor for 20 years telling the stories of Dreamers and DACA recipients. I don't think there is any better way to describe who they are and what they go through to try to become American citizens and be part of the future of this country.

I would like to highlight one of them today.

This is the 149th story of a Dreamer that I have shared on the floor of the Senate. Alondra O. was born in Mexico and moved to the St. Louis metropolitan area when she was 5 years old. She was a great student.

She became a member of the National Honor Society. She was certified as a nurse assistant, a patient care technician, and phlebotomist all by the time she graduated from high school. Her dream was to become a full-time registered nurse. Do we need more nurses? Absolutely.

Despite the national nursing shortage and her excellent qualifications, Alondra was unable to get a nursing license in her home State of Missouri because State law there prohibits DACA recipients from becoming nurses.

But she didn't give up.

Missouri's loss became my home State of Illinois's gain. And today, Alondra serves as an emergency department registered nurse in Alton, IL, just across the river from Missouri.

Sadly, Alondra still lives in fear today every day that all of her hard work would mean nothing if DACA is eliminated. She has lived in this country since she was 5 years old. She should not be forced to leave the only home she has ever known simply because Congress has failed to do its job to fix our broken immigration system.

Alondra should be able to work in this critical field where we desperately need nurses, wherever her services are most needed, and do so without fear of deportation.

I have heard a lot said in political campaigns about murderers, rapists, terrorists, and mentally deranged people who were seeking to make a future in the United States. What about Alondra? Does she fit any of those categories? Of course not.

She, against the odds, built a great reputation and a great resume, with her education, training, and work experience. She is doing work in her field in a part of our State where we desperately need nurses. She is no threat to anyone. She is not a danger. She is, in fact, a beacon of hope for those people who are sick and need a good nurse.

Unfortunately, there has been a relentless campaign to eliminate DACA and deport Dreamers, so the future for Alondra and other DACA recipients remains legally uncertain.

Basic question: Is America better off to have Alondra the nurse in Alton, IL, here or to deport her from the United States to a country she hasn't seen since she was 5 years old?

More than 100,000 Dreamers have initial DACA applications that are still pending. They are in limbo because for years we haven't allowed those who qualified to apply to join the ranks of DACA. DACA was always intended to be a temporary program to give Congress time to pass a permanent solution. We are not very good at passing anything in Congress.

Now in their 13th year, it is time for us to honor the Dreamers' patience, act on our promises, and provide them with a pathway to citizenship.

My mother was an immigrant to this country. I am proud of immigrants. Our family came here with nothing, not even speaking the language, worked hard, and established themselves.

My mother—eighth grade education, no experience in high school or college—raised three boys to serve this country. My two brothers were in the U.S. Navy, and I serve here in the U.S. Senate. Is immigration important for this country? The Durbin family believes that it is.

I am going to continue to fight for the Dreamers, continue to fight for DACA.

I urge my Republican colleagues, be thoughtful on the issue of immigration. Don't penalize Alondra, this wonderful young woman who has worked so hard to become a registered nurse in my State of Illinois. Give her a chance to make America and my State a better place.

We remember this anniversary of the DACA Program and thank President Obama for his vision to realize these young people could make this a better country and realize we have to be thoughtful when it comes to immigration.

If you are a danger to this country, we don't want you here, we don't want

you coming here, but if you are going to make this a better place to live, we not only want you, we desperately need you. The DACA Program represents hundreds of thousands of young people who prove that every single day of their lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, first of all, let me thank the Democratic whip from Illinois. He has been steadfast and persistent in his fight for Dreamers in this country and has not given up and has been a critical and crucial voice not only for Dreamers but for the fight for passage of comprehensive immigration reform that puts Dreamers on a pathway to citizenship, and their families, and I thank him for that.

In 5 days, we will celebrate 13 years since President Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, Program, which so many have been referring to. DACA has proven to be an overwhelming success, allowing Dreamers who have only ever known the United States as their home to continue contributing to our economy and our communities.

DACA protects immigrants who came to the United States as children from deportation, and it authorizes them to legally work.

Nevada and every State in the country has benefited from DACA. We are a better, stronger country because of this program.

In my State, in Nevada, nearly 136,000 U.S. citizens live with at least 1 family member who is undocumented. In Nevada, 10,730 people are DACA recipients. And we know, no matter what President Trump and others say, that our immigrant communities are a critical part of what makes our country great. I know that.

My grandfather is from Chihuahua, across the border, served in our military, and became a U.S. citizen.

The Dreamers I know in my community have gone to college, they have become a part of our workforce, they pay millions of dollars in taxes, and they are woven into the fabric of every community in Nevada and, I will say, across this country. Dreamers contribute \$810 million each year to our economy in Nevada alone.

They love this country, and it is their home.

As we celebrate the 13th anniversary of DACA, we must remember that the young people who became the first DACA recipients are now in their thirties and forties. They have the responsibilities that all American adults have: maintaining their careers, caring for elderly relatives, paying bills and mortgages, and, yes, putting food on the table for their families. But their ability to remain in the only home they have ever known is in jeopardy thanks to this administration's threats to end DACA.

President Trump tried to terminate DACA entirely in his first term, but he

was stopped by the courts. Now immigrant families across the country are once again bracing for their lives to be turned upside down on any given day because of the threats of mass deportation and further attacks on the program.

I can't even imagine how exhausting it must be to spend so many years in fear and limbo—especially for Dreamers who have done everything right, who know this country as their only home, who want to be the future leaders, who want to be part of our communities, who want to be our doctors and our teachers, and to know that they are always concerned about that opportunity for their future.

They have, for the last 13 years, been met with endless delays and politics and people playing with their lives for some sort of political gain. Not only that, but immigrant communities, as you have heard the minority whip say, are being demonized, and they are facing threats because of politicians stoking hate and division in our communities. People who have lived here their whole lives and contribute to our country are now being told by those politicians that they do not belong.

Here is the other thing: I know that in my State, they are being demonized and called out by these politicians as criminals and drug traffickers and rapists. Well, I invite any of those politicians to come into my State and meet with my Dreamers.

I challenge anyone in this country who knows these families and knows these Dreamers to stand by them because right now, they are under attack. And it is something that is not happening out of sight or behind closed doors; it is happening in our neighborhoods every single day.

These Dreamers have families who are a crucial part of our communities. You know them. We know them. They have families. Many of them have spouses and children who are U.S. citizens. They just want to be able to live normal lives and contribute and continue to pay taxes and be a part of our jobs and our economy and expanding this economy and this country.

I will tell you, over the years, my office has received stacks of letters from Nevadans who have been impacted by DACA about the importance of the program for them and their families. I want to share just a couple of those stories and those letters with you.

I received a letter from a 10-year-old girl who was born in North Las Vegas. Her father is a Dreamer who has lived in the United States since he was 7 years old.

Her father always dreamed of becoming a doctor, but for much of his career, he was denied opportunity after opportunity. But that changed when he became a recipient of DACA. He was able to get a good job, buy a home for his family, and give his kids a better life.

But every day, his daughter lives in fear that her father, who has worked

hard in America all his life, could get deported back to Mexico and that she and her siblings would have to live in a country whose language they don't even speak.

She said:

I would love for the government to see that my daddy and all Dreamers like him only want to be good citizens and have a better future.

She hopes to be a pediatrician one day and serve her community just like her dad always dreamed.

The second letter I want to share with you I received from a young woman whose parents brought her to Nevada when she was just 2 years old. When she turned 18, she was excited to start working so that she could earn a living for herself, but as an undocumented Dreamer without a Social Security number, she couldn't apply for the jobs her peers were getting.

She said:

I am as much a citizen as them. I can do all that they are able to do. I have witnessed several individuals around my age waste their potential. They have everything they could possibly receive and choose not to take advantage [of it].

I will tell you Dreamers jump at every opportunity to create a better life for themselves than their parents had. I will tell you these Dreamers do not run afoul of the law. I will tell you these Dreamers do everything they possibly can to prove why they want to live here and be a crucial part of our communities, but all the while, they live in fear that their families could be torn apart by our broken immigration system that we have an obligation to fix.

DACA has been an essential way to provide stability for the Dreamers and their families, but right now in my State and across the country, Dreamers haven't been able to apply for new DACA protections. Nearly half of Nevada's Dreamers are eligible for DACA, but unfortunately thousands of Dreamers in my State are currently vulnerable because this administration is refusing to accept their DACA applications.

Now it is in direct defiance of a court order. As of March of this year, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that the Trump administration must start accepting new DACA applications because that is the law, but months have gone by, and we have not seen any progress.

Yesterday—yesterday—my staff learned for the first time that one single new application had been processed and accepted—just one. Well, while one is better than zero, I will say this administration has a lot of work to do to follow the law and accept more applicants into the DACA Program.

I am so pleased my colleagues and I are here today to keep the pressure on, to make sure this administration follows the law but also to appeal to our Republican colleagues. It is time we come together and work together to put Dreamers and their families on a

pathway to citizenship. These Dreamers are as American in their hearts as you and I. Our country is better with them in it. As we celebrate the 13th anniversary of DACA, I remain committed to working with anyone—anyone—who is willing to protect them and do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I so appreciate the comments of my colleague from Nevada. So many of us are so frustrated with the failure of this legislature to address this fundamental injustice to our Dreamers.

Certainly immigration has been a part of the American spirit for a very long time. In 1752, three Merkle brothers—a name that was later converted to Merkley—arrived from Germany to be the first three of four settlers of the town of New Durlach.

More than a century later, we had those powerful words written by Emma Lazarus carved into the base of the Statue of liberty:

Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!

Generations of immigrant families that were brought in through the Statue of Liberty island immigration center read those words as they arrived and were inspired as they began their American dream. But those who didn't come through that immigration center were also inspired by that vision of people coming from around the world to build this land, this land in which we have government of, by, and for the people.

Among those who have been inspired are those who arrived in more recent times. And our Dreamers, those who were less than 16, arriving before 2007, they were being given the chance, through the decision of President Obama, to grant them status in 2012 to have their American dream. And their success as a group shows it was the right policy and that it is long past time for Congress to pass a Dream Act to give them a path to citizenship.

Our good colleague from Illinois, Senator DURBIN, has been fighting for these young people for passage of the Dream Act time and time again. And it is the Senate's 40-vote veto that has stopped us from ever having a vote on that policy, a final vote on that policy.

You know, the Dream Act didn't simply come from one side of the aisle. It was Senator Orrin Hatch, a Republican, who first introduced it in 2001. But the bill for the Dreamers has languished in Congress year after year after year. In 2012, President Obama, therefore, took action and announced a deferred action for childhood arrivals, the DACA policy, to protect those children who were brought here as youth, knew, often, no other country, often spoke no other language. This is their home.

And he noted at the time that this was to be “a temporary stopgap measure” for Congress to be able to debate and vote on a permanent legislation, the Dream Act. But Congress hasn’t voted—that is, the Senate has never voted on final passage—despite decades, despite bipartisan support. And even now, in December, President Trump said on “Meet the Press”—so we are talking just months ago, after he won reelection: “We have to do something about the Dreamers.”

So let’s do something here as we note the 13th anniversary of DACA. More than 825,000 young men and women—approximately 8,000 in my home State of Oregon—are caught in legal limbo yet “yearning to breathe free.” Won’t they be able to breathe a lot freer if we were able to resolve their legal status?

In 2022, the Department of Homeland Security codified DACA. But due to litigation, more than 100,000 applications are still pending from people seeking DACA protections. The Trump administration has been quite aggressive about deporting undocumented immigrants. And it could, in fact, rescind DACA’s protections. So let’s act. Let’s resolve this situation.

Here is what we understand. In 2012, President Obama described recipients as “young people who study in our schools, who play in our neighborhoods, who are friends with our children, who pledge allegiance to the flag.” But while Congress waited to act all these years, those young people have grown up. DACA’s protections allowed them to graduate from school, to apply for jobs, to become pillars in our communities. Over the last 13 years, they contributed more than \$140 billion to the U.S. economy and more than \$40 billion in Federal payroll, State, and local taxes.

They enrich our country in so many ways, serving as teachers, as nurses, as police officers, in addition to being our colleagues, our neighbors, and our friends.

We are a nation of immigrants. Unless you are part of the Tribal communities that have been on this land from time immemorial, unless you just arrived as a new immigrant, you are descended from immigrants, immigrants who arrived here often with welcoming arms, as mentioned in Emma Lazarus’s poem engraved in the foundation of the Statue of Liberty.

We should not be slamming that door shut on the Dreamers who were brought here as children, who already contributed so much to our country.

Let’s not just give speeches about the 13th anniversary, let’s get those 100,000 pending DACA applications processed. Let’s get the Dream Act to the floor to give DACA recipients a legal path to citizenship, and let’s finish the work that Senator DURBIN and so many others have been carrying forward for so many years to ensure that the American dream is open to all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, colleagues, time and time again, we have seen one of the most frequently called plays out of the Trump playbook. When everything else is going wrong, shift the narrative, scapegoat immigrants, blame immigrants for whatever your failure is at the moment.

Well, today, between his failing trade wars that are raising the cost of living on working families across the country to his losses in Federal court and delays in the Congress on the efforts to give billionaires even bigger tax breaks, and even the embarrassing breakup recently with his former BBFF—billionaire best friend forever—Elon Musk, it is safe to say that Donald Trump is grasping for anything he can do to change the narrative, to distract us from the damage that his political agenda has going on.

The smart thing would be to actually change course, rectify things, do things in the interest of our Nation and our economy. But what has he chosen to do instead? To double down. In order to distract the country from his failures and his efforts to “flood the zone,” Donald Trump is expanding his deportation agenda far beyond the focus and targeting of violent and dangerous criminals that he claimed would be the strategy.

He is so desperate to show quick results that he is even throwing due process rights out the window for so many; the due process rights, by the way, that I know most of you, if not all of you, should agree are paramount, foundational to our democracy.

As you continue to see this week, Trump is launching indiscriminate ICE raids in the Los Angeles region followed by a chaotic escalation federalizing California’s National Guard and even mobilizing the Marines.

It is personal for me, not just because Los Angeles is home—I was born and raised in Los Angeles—but as a proud son of immigrants. I know the true story of the vast majority of immigrants and immigrant families in Los Angeles, throughout California, and throughout the country.

But instead of honoring those contributions—there is no disagreement with the prioritization and targeting of violent criminals—but the vast majority of folks, their contributions deserve to be honored. Instead, Donald Trump is manufacturing a crisis to, once again, not just distract us but divide us. Just as he has always done, he is using immigrants to do it.

I can’t help but speak up and remind us, immigrants are not political pawns for his agenda, just as servicemembers—women and men—are not political pawns for his agenda.

So, yes, as we should be celebrating the 13th anniversary of DACA this week, hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients and Dreamers are actually now worried that they are at risk—at further risk—that they could be next as President Trump struggles to find enough violent criminals to detain and

deport to meet a campaign promise. Since he can’t get his numbers there, he will look elsewhere.

I want to take this moment to make very clear: Dreamers are our neighbors. Dreamers are our loved ones. These are young people who are Americans in every sense of the word except for one important piece of paperwork, including over 160,000 DACA recipients in the State of California, alone.

Yet because of Congressional Republicans’ refusal to act, Dreamers live, at a minimum, in a constant state of uncertainty but oftentimes in a constant state of fear. They deserve better.

They deserve permanent protections. This isn’t just a moral issue, as righteous and compelling as those moral arguments should be. Colleagues, if that doesn’t get you, you should be moved by the economic issues that this represents because if, through the President or through Republicans’ actions in Congress, you were to take away work authorization for hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients, that is reducing our workforce at a time when we are trying to grow the workforce and grow the economy. If DACA were to come to an end, it could strip our workforce of over 400,000 workers and cost our country nearly \$650 billion.

Yes, they, too, are productive. I am talking about Dreamers who work as teachers, as caregivers, as nurses and doctors, as construction workers, as food service workers, and so many other key industries for our economy. And they are hard-working community members who pay taxes just like the rest of us and just want a chance to work hard and raise a family in the country that they love.

They deserve peace of mind, the peace of mind to know that they are safe here at home. And that is why I am proud to support the Dream Act, a bill to provide permanent protections for Dreamers who contribute so much to our country. It is the least that we can do for Dreamers who have spent decades contributing to the Nation.

And for my Republican colleagues who may be caught up in the heat of the moment and trapped in this anti-immigrant rhetoric in our current political climate on the right, I will say this: Dreamers make our communities better; Dreamers make our economy stronger; and Dreamers make our Nation stronger.

The Dream Act is a commonsense bill that has enjoyed bipartisan support. So I urge you to join me in supporting the Dream Act now and in giving these young people the certainty and the protections that they deserve and strengthen our Nation in the process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, as we approach the 13th anniversary of DACA, I rise today in support of this program and the thousands of Nevadans who rely on it.

My State of Nevada is home to more than 12,000 DACA beneficiaries who

know of no other country as their own. They grew up in our communities and contribute to our Nation and to our economy. They are our neighbors, our friends, our family members. Many of them are now even raising their own families here—sending their kids to school, taking them to soccer practice, and going to the park on weekends.

But Washington has failed them. What started out as a temporary program meant to protect Dreamers, while Congress worked to pass a more permanent solution, has turned into a decades-long lifeline for so many. Washington's gridlock and its inability to pass comprehensive immigration reform, with a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, has left them to depend on DACA. It has also opened the doors to attacks from the Trump administration and rightwing extremists.

During his first term, Donald Trump rescinded DACA and threw this critical program into a tailspin, leaving the future of Dreamers and their families to depend on court case after court case.

Can anyone in this Chamber imagine the stress, the fear, the uncertainty that they have had to endure all of these years, not knowing if they would be separated from their families or not?

In his second term, Trump has been relentless—relentless—in attacking and separating hard-working, law-abiding immigrant families, increasing fear and worry in our immigrant communities, including DACA recipients.

If DACA were to end, millions of Dreamers across our Nation would be at risk of having to leave the only country they have ever known, the only place they have ever called home. Parents would face separation from their children, leaving families forever traumatized. And our economy and communities would greatly suffer.

And just imagine—just imagine—the message we would be sending. Nevadans who have done everything right since they arrived in our State, Nevadans who were brought here as kids through no fault of their own and who followed the rules when government asked them to—who followed the rules—Nevadans who have graduated college, Nevadans who have served in the military, Nevadans who have started businesses in our communities, Nevadans who are currently protected could now lose the only life they have ever known.

So it is past time that politicians in Washington stopped using Dreamers as a political football and finally passed a law that permanently protects them. These hard-working Americans deserve to have peace of mind, and they deserve a life without fear.

I want Dreamers to know they have allies in their corner. As Nevada's Senator, I will do everything in my power to protect all of our communities and keep families—keep families—together. Since day one in the Senate, I have been pushing my colleagues to come together, in a bipartisan way, to pass a

permanent solution, one that gives Dreamers permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship—a pathway to citizenship now, now—while we continue to work on comprehensive immigration reform that this country so surely needs—surely needs. It shouldn't be a partisan issue.

As long as I am in the Senate, I won't stop fighting for it. I want everyone to know that, in the meantime, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect DACA and the thousands of Nevadans who rely on it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, last week, President Trump sent to Congress a request to rescind \$9.4 billion in fiscal year 2025 and 2024 funds that a majority of Republicans and Democrats had debated and had voted for. Those appropriations were signed into law by President Trump.

I want to briefly discuss the impact these rescissions would have because of the consequences for Americans, for our relationships with other governments, and for millions of people around the world. Also, I want to speak about what this does to the appropriations power and authority and responsibility of Congress.

We are seeing, from my view, an abdication of article I authority that belongs under the Constitution to Congress and delegating that to the Chief Executive. It is a violation of our separation of powers, which is a pillar of the checks and balances that is essential to the well-being of our democracy.

First, talking about the rescissions: The White House—as it says about everything that we do appropriate money for—the White House claims it is waste, fraud, and abuse and also claims that it contributes to the ballooning deficit.

There is a contradiction here because according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the so-called Big Beautiful Bill that the President is determined to pass will add \$2.4 trillion to the deficit—\$2.4 trillion. And that is before we add the increased debt service that will be required to pay it.

In this country, taxpayers are now on the verge of paying a trillion dollars annually in interest payments, and that is dead money. It doesn't support our military. It doesn't support our schools. It doesn't support scientific research. It is paid to bondholders, many of whom are in China.

Most of the funds that the President is proposing to cancel were approved 2½ months ago for fiscal year 2025. And there has been absolutely no showing that any of these funds—not a single dollar—cannot or should not be used for the purposes for which they were appropriated by a bipartisan majority in Congress. There has been absolutely no showing—none—of any waste, fraud, and abuse. These funds were deemed worthy of funding 2 months ago, and

the President himself agreed. He signed it.

This is an end run around the article I authority of Congress: We pass a budget, and then the Executive rescinds what it is we appropriated our funds for—an enormous erosion of the responsibility of Congress under article I.

But let me just mention a few specific examples of the funds that are on the chopping block: the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. In the case of Vermont, it is called Vermont Public. It is our public radio station, and it is our public broadcasting. Every State has the Public Broadcasting System.

In Vermont—and I know we are not unique—it is essential programming that knits together our community and provided information that was crucial, constantly, when we had floods in July of 2023 and July of 2024. Federal funding is about 10 percent of our budget, but in many States it is about 40, 50 percent.

The administration is proposing to get rid of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting altogether. I totally and completely oppose that. It is the equivalent of \$1.60 for each American annually. It provides a source of local news at a time when we have news deserts all around the country. The pressure on our local newspapers, on our local broadcasters, on our local radio stations is enormous. We need public broadcasting.

I saw it in Vermont, as I mentioned, when we had the enormous benefit of the information we needed desperately to deal with the floods.

My Republican colleagues in North Carolina had a similar experience. It was local public media markets and outlets that provided lifesaving emergency alert information to ensure that victims knew which roads they could travel, which food distribution centers were open. The elimination of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting puts all of this at risk.

Another program said to be eliminated is PEPFAR. PEPFAR is a flagship HIV/AIDS prevention program. It was started by President George W. Bush. It has saved millions of lives. It has created enormous goodwill for the United States around the entire world.

The chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee has strongly opposed any rescission of PEPFAR funds, and I agree with Senator COLLINS and cannot, for the life of me, understand how anyone would support rescinding those funds that provide so much to so many for so little.

Here are some other programs: Global Health—\$500 million would be cut. These activities on Global Health protect child and maternal health. They combat HIV/AIDS and infectious diseases. We would be rescinding funds that fight malaria, Ebola, polio, HIV and AIDS, and other diseases that have been kept under control and out of the United States—in many cases, thanks to these programs—but could easily explode into full-blown epidemics.