

Elidio, a DACA recipient from the Bay area, wrote in a letter to me:

I was recently diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer, and I was inquiring if you can help out with an inquiry on the timetable of the process. My work authorization is set to expire soon, and with it, the prospects of losing my health insurance, which I deeply rely on.

His life, his very life, depends on the renewal of his DACA application.

Another of my constituents, Ravina from the Inland Empire, wrote to express frustrations and deep concerns with ongoing renewal delays, which have already negatively impacted them. They came to this country as a 1-year-old. Now they are a civil engineer, living what they called “a dream come true” and contributing to California’s vital infrastructure and transportation sectors. But that dream has always carried with it the threat of expiration due to processing delays and the uncertainty of the program.

Ravina’s work permit lapsed due to deliberate delays on the part of this administration, and they are now on mandatory leave and at risk of losing their job entirely. They want to work. They want a stable future. They want, as with all DACA recipients, certainty—certainty that from one day to another, they will not be forced to leave this country, their home.

Another of my constituents, Marco from the Southern California area, also wrote to me, worried about the future. He works for a local health department while going to school to obtain a degree in microbiology. Since he doesn’t qualify for Federal student aid, he is paying everything out of pocket, working while a student to get by. Without his work authorization, he could lose his job and ultimately be forced to drop out of college.

These stories are real. Their constant worry is real. These Dreamers just want a permanent fix and a pathway forward.

My constituent services team is working diligently to assist DACA recipients with their applications, but we need something more permanent. We need to provide Dreamers a pathway to citizenship in this country and ensure that they and their families are not living in limbo, that they have the certainty they need to achieve the American dream.

Just recently, Congress voted to give ICE and CBP a budget so astronomical that it rivals the military budget of many industrialized countries—all in the service of a draconian immigration enforcement agenda that is anything but American. And this comes at a time when, instead of addressing our Nation’s challenges, American taxpayers are being forced to give even more to ICE and Border Patrol agents—more money to fuel a cruel immigration policy and raids that are separating families; more money for an out-of-control Federal police force without a modicum of accountability, including agents that have killed

American citizens in cold blood, in broad daylight, on video, for exercising their constitutionally protected right to free speech. These agents have broken into homes. They have refused to show their faces or their badges and have ripped children from their parents.

If we can afford \$70 billion more for these agents, why can’t we afford a clear path for Dreamers? Why can’t we afford to process work applications in a timely way? But of course we can if there is the will to do it. This administration could start fixing the delays that DACA recipients are facing. This won’t just help families across the country; it will also help stabilize the workforce and boost our economy.

But Congress itself needs to act as well because we failed at every turn to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and it is within our power to do so.

President Trump once said that he himself believed Dreamers needed protection. He once said:

I’d love to be able to do something for them. . . . [T]hey should feel safe, but I’d like to be able to do something.

That was then. I guess we are living in a very different kind of now.

Nevertheless, this body should act. Members on both sides of the aisle should recommit today to work together to find a pathway to preserve, codify, and extend the DACA Program and provide all Dreamers a real pathway to citizenship.

I yield the floor.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote commence immediately.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Justin D. Smith, of Missouri, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Smith nomination?

Mr. PAUL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Sen-

ator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNETT), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 172 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—9

Bennet	King	McConnell
Cramer	Luján	Sanders
Curtis	Lummis	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). 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 actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 760.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Michelle Steel,