



BILLINGS GAZETTE

\$25B a small price for Dreamers

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I agree that the “wall” on the southern border makes no economic sense; it is not “Tester’s wall” nor is it an election-year ploy.

Both the right-leaning Cato Institute and the left-leaning Center for American Progress suggest that ending DACA and deporting recipients could reduce the size of the U.S. economy by \$280 billion to \$430 billion during the next decade. CNBC estimates it would cost more than \$400 billion during the next decade. President Donald Trump has made it clear that he will not support a path for DACA recipients unless Congress funds his “beautiful wall.”

We have candidates in office who have been elected on a promise of, “I will never compromise,” and we have seen the gridlock that results. Politics is the art of the possible, not the “perfect.” Today the country has a Republican president and Congress, many who were elected on an anti-immigration platform. Both party representatives need to compromise to pass legislation. Twenty-five billion dollars is a small price to pay to prevent the \$400 billion in damages to the U.S. economy.