

# Capital Gazette

## Letters: Let's remember that City Dock is a sacred space

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The view equating Dreamers, or those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, with people attempting to take Ravens seats from their rightful owner (*The Capital*, Feb. 6) is simplistic, misinformed and insulting.

In his letter, Ty Collins characterizes Dreamers as takers of free housing, free medical care, food and education that we pay for. This perpetuates the myth that DACA imposes such a burden on taxpayers. The opposite is true.

As the National Academy of Sciences has determined and the conservative Cato Institute has confirmed, first-generation immigrants who enter the U.S. as children, including all DACA recipients, pay, on average, more in taxes over their lifetime than they receive in benefits, regardless of their education level. Recipients of DACA contribute more than the average because they are not eligible for any welfare, cash assistance, food stamps or medical or health care tax credits.

Eighty-nine percent of DACA recipients are employed by U.S. businesses. In Maryland, DACA recipients paid an estimated \$41 million in state and local taxes in 2016.

Attempting to tie DACA recipients to increased crime perpetuates another myth. Immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than other Americans and crime rates decline in areas where immigrants settle.

Further, to participate in DACA individuals must pass a thorough background check and are required to be in school or have a high school diploma or honorable discharge from the armed services.

These DACA recipients, brought to this country through no fault of their own, are asking to be allowed to continue to contribute legally to the only society they have known. We should welcome them.