



Udall, Heinrich Call On President Trump To Protect Dreamers

Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich

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U.S. Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich joined in sending a letter led by U.S. Senate Democratic Whip Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) asking President Donald Trump to use his executive authority to the greatest extent possible to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA provides temporary relief from deportation to immigrant students who arrived in the United States as children if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national-security background checks. There are more than 7,000 DACA recipients in New Mexico who contribute nearly \$19 million in state and local taxes.

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and nine other states have threatened to sue President Trump if he does not rescind the memorandum that established DACA and announce that his Administration will not renew or issue any new DACA permits.

“As you know, DACA provides temporary relief from deportation to immigrant students who arrived in the United States as children if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national-security background checks. These young people are known as Dreamers. They came to the United States as children and are American in every way except for their immigration status. We have already invested in them by educating them in American schools. It makes no sense to squander their talents by deporting them to countries they barely remember,” wrote the senators. “We urge you to respond to this threat to your executive authority by directing the Attorney General to use all legal options to defend the DACA program and thereby allow a generation of young immigrants with great potential to continue contributing to our society and economy.”

Approximately 790,000 immigrant students – commonly referred to as Dreamers – have come forward and received DACA, which has allowed them to contribute more fully to their country as teachers, nurses, engineers, and small business owners. According to the conservative CATO Institute, deporting DACA recipients would cost over \$60 billion and would result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade. The nonpartisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that the 1.3 million young people enrolled in or eligible for DACA pay \$2 billion each year in state and local taxes.

Earlier this year, Senator Heinrich introduced the Protect DREAMer Confidentiality Act of 2017 to safeguard the private information—such as addresses and telephone numbers—of DREAMers to ensure that they are not targeted by the Trump Administration for deportation.