

DREAMers are boon to U.S. in every way

September 11, 2017

I wanted to highlight the empathy President Obama displayed when he enacted DACA, and to clarify a couple of things. Lives were changed in 2012 when DACA was introduced under an executive action, a plan that gave undocumented children an opportunity to turn their dreams of becoming a citizen into a closer reality.

According to CNN, undocumented applicants, known as DREAMers, must have a clean criminal record and proof they have been living in the United States before age 16. Once accepted into the program, the recipient has to renew every two years. This can be a time of major stress, and it was especially so in the days leading up to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' announcement that the program would be rescinded.

Without DACA, the economy will be severely impacted, with an estimated \$200 billion loss, according to a study by Cato Institute. There are 800,000 DREAMers here, and they are giving back to the United States by becoming outstanding members of their communities.

They are our neighbors, our classmates, our co-workers. They are activists, scholars, and hardworking young professionals who belong in this country as much as anyone else.

More important, they are fellow humans looking for a better life. The use of "illegal" as a word to describe a situation in which a person has fled their home country to seek opportunity in ours is demoralizing and archaic.

#HereToStay

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