

Senate rejects bipartisan immigration bill

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If the deal does pass through Congress, something that is far from a sure-thing, the White House has signaled it would oppose it because it does not address all of the proposed immigration reforms that Trump desires. Senators' next move was unclear as of Thursday afternoon. If it looks like the Rounds compromise can get enough Republican votes to actually pass, there will be pressure on Democrats to fall behind it so that something will get through the Senate - which would then put the pressure on the House and President Trump to compromise.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has asked the Senate to consider voting on four immigration proposals. The fate of hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients could rest with moderate lawmakers in the Senate - and whether they can convince President Donald Trump that their path forward is the only answer left, even if it doesn't give him everything he wants. That appeared to rule out the latest plan from Democrats and the rebel Republicans, which is a watered-down version of a plan Mr. Trump had declared "weak" last month.

"We will not stand by and allow Dreamers be held hostage, political hostage, to the administration's entire immigration agenda", Illinois Democrat Dick Durbin said. Those protections are due to start expiring on March 5, but federal judges have blocked Trump's bid to end DACA while litigation over the matter continues. It will likely last past that deadline amid pending lawsuits. By a 39-60 vote, senators rejected a White House-backed plan that became a partisan lightning rod after Trump insisted his plan was the only one he would sign.

Democratic Senator Chris Coons told reporters the legislation "makes some very hard concessions" to Republicans. McCain was not present for the votes as he fights brain cancer. "That means fixing broken parts of our legal immigration system", McConnell said. The second proposal, from Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa., was killed that would have added language blocking federal grants to "sanctuary cities", communities that don't cooperate with federal efforts to enforce immigration laws. It received 54 votes in its favor, and 45 against it.

GOP Senator Lindsey Graham of SC, one of the negotiators on the bipartisan plan, said in a statement that DHS was acting "like a political organization intent on poisoning the well". That could reduce legal immigration by about 27,000 people per year, according to the libertarian Cato Institute. But while it would provide the \$25 billion Trump wants for his wall, it would dole it out over 10 years and lacks most of the limits Trump is seeking on legal immigration. Sen. Cory A. Booker, New Jersey Democrat, emerged from a party caucus to say he wouldn't guarantee that Democrats would be ready for votes Thursday. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, to codify his own plan.

The president has insisted that any bill which will codify Obama-era protections for illegal immigrants into law must be accompanied by funding for a wall along the U.S. -Mexico border, and that it must end both chain migration and the diversity visa lottery program. The administration "calculated that Dems would be more opposed to mandating E-Verify than to ending the visa lottery & chain migration". Earlier Thursday, the White House used a written statement to label the proposal "dangerous policy that will harm the nation". -Mexican border that Trump has called for as a candidate and as president. "If he would stop torpedoing bipartisan efforts, a good bill would pass".

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders zeroed in on how the plan prioritizes deportation. As such, the White House is considering issuing a veto threat to the legislation, Politico reported. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of NY called President Donald Trump "obstinate" and said the president "has stood in the way of every single proposal that has had a chance of becoming law". "I'm hearing less and less about dreamers and more and more about spending billions of dollars in taxpayer dollars on building a wall", Menendez said, adding later that issues not directly related to the fate of dreamers are "political catnip created to incite fear".