

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Phase Out Background Information & Talking Points

Updated September 27, 2017



Background

On September 5, 2017, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that the Trump administration was rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program via a “phase out.” This change in federal policy will affect the lives of nearly 223,000 DACA recipients in California, potentially endangering their ability to continue their education, careers, and lives with their families. The loss of young DACA immigrants will have a negative impact on California’s economy and on California’s health care workforce, which is already suffering from a lack of skilled, multi-lingual personnel.

Impact on Health Care Workforce Nationwide

- According to the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), there are currently 65 DACA-protected students enrolled in medical school and 12 DACA individuals in residency programs.
- According to AAMC estimates, a single physician regularly takes care of an average of 1,500 patients a year. Thus, according to Karen Fisher, chief public policy officer with the AAMC, if you multiply the 65 DACA status students currently in medical school by 1,500, that’s nearly 100,000 future patients who will be affected if these students are unable to finish their medical training.
- We are already experiencing a severe shortage of health care providers throughout California, and the elimination of the DACA program will further hamper our health centers’ ability to serve their patients.
- DACA hasn’t only improved the lives of nearly 800,000 immigrant youth, but has increased the healthcare workforce and helped to ensure patients receive culturally appropriate care in the languages they speak at home.
- The health sector employs a significant number of workers born abroad; a 2014 Georgetown study found that 22 percent of the entire health care workforce is foreign-born.
- Revoking the ability for current DACA recipients to renew their deferrals would force clinics into the impossible and extremely costly position of having to fire productive employees for no other reason than an arbitrary change in federal policy.
- Medical students and residents with DACA status and DREAMers represent an important segment of the U.S. population, and their participation in our health care workforce will benefit all U.S. patients.

Impact on California

- California is home to nearly 223,000 DACA recipients - the highest in the nation.
- According to the Center for American Progress, ending DACA would cost California more than \$11.6 billion in annual GDP losses.
- In Los Angeles County alone, there are about 48,000 children who would be eligible for DACA in the future.

Impact on the Nation *(Resource - [California and DACA: The Facts](#))*

- The DACA program allows young immigrants the ability to work, study and live free of fear and uncertainty in the country they call home.
 - 95% are working or in school, 48% got a job with better working conditions, 90% got a driver’s license or state ID and 12% were even able to buy a first home.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Phase Out Background Information & Talking Points

Updated September 27, 2017



- DACA has changed the lives of nearly 800,000 young people who have lived in the United States since their childhood, allowing them to better contribute to their families and communities.
- Ending DACA would remove an estimated 685,000 workers from the nation's economy and would result in a loss of \$460.3 billion from the national GDP over the next decade.
- A recent nationwide survey finds that after receiving DACA, recipients moved to jobs with better pay (63%), gaining greater access to employment that matches their education and training (49%) and to jobs with better working conditions (48%).
- The Center for American Progress reports that over the past five years, 91% of DACA recipients have found gainful employment, and are currently working for companies across the country.
- In total, about 1.1 million unauthorized immigrants are eligible for the benefits, according to a 2014 Pew Research Center estimate, which means that about 78% of those potentially eligible have applied to the program.
- Reporting by the Center for American Progress has found that Removing DACA recipients from the workforce would cut contributions to Medicare and Social Security by \$24.6 billion over a decade.