



Dear Members of Congress,

The Muslim Public Affairs Council calls on you to act clearly and immediately do all you can to protect nearly 800,000 undocumented, immigrant youth by passing the DREAM Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440).

In the spirit of American values of providing opportunities for economic success without discriminating based on national origin, race, religion, gender, or sexual orientation, it is imperative that Congress passes the DREAM Act. As a faith-based organization, we see the threat to these basic human rights as a threat to our American values.

One of the bedrock principles in the Qur'an is to act with compassion and dignity towards fellow human beings. This is why MPAC and the American Muslim community regard immigration as one of today's most pressing issues. We urge members of Congress to embrace those in need who seek to improve their lives and those of their families by pursuing the American dream.

The existing immigration system is deeply flawed. While undocumented youth can obtain work permits, there is no available path to citizenship. This makes them vulnerable to exploitation and forces them to work underground -- depriving them of access to fair wages and humane working conditions. Over 45 percent of DREAMers currently attend an educational institution. Among those attending school, 72 percent of that group is pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher. Employment authorization helps DREAMers participate in the labor force. 91 percent of DREAMers are currently employed and contribute more than \$400 billion to the economy. DREAMers must be given the opportunity to obtain a career, pursue an education and have the opportunity to become citizens of this great nation.

We strongly urge that you pass a clean DREAM Act to protect undocumented, immigrant youth. By offering a path to citizenship, we are making our country stronger by providing nearly 800,000 people the opportunity to pursue the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. DREAMers were raised here for most of their lives. Their entire identity is American -- because as far as they are concerned -- America is their only home.

Sincerely,

Salam Al-Marayati