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Fact Sheet

July 2017

Protecting the DREAM: The Potential Impact of Different Legislative Scenarios for Unauthorized Youth

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Executive Summary

On June 29, 2017, Texas and nine other states urged the Trump administration to end a signature Obama administration executive action that made nearly 2 million unauthorized immigrant youth potentially eligible to apply for temporary relief from deportation. The ten states threatened to legally challenge the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program if the federal government does not rescind it before September 5, 2017. With nearly 800,000 unauthorized immigrants having received DACA benefits since 2012 and the deadline for a decision by the Trump administration looming, Congress is under growing pressure to act. If the administration elects not to defend the program in court, which seems likely given it has proven controversial with the Trump base, DACA will end.

One option for lawmakers is to revisit the DREAM Act. First introduced in 2001 and reintroduced in nearly every Congress since, the bipartisan measure seeks to legalize unauthorized immigrants brought to the United States as children (known as DREAMers). In brief, the DREAM Act would condition initial eligibility on a number of criteria, including age at U.S. entry, length of U.S. residence, educational attainment, and a clean criminal record. After a certain period of residence and upon meeting additional requirements, DREAMers could adjust from conditional legal status to legal permanent residence.

Using an innovative Migration Policy Institute (MPI) methodology to estimate the legal status and other characteristics of immigrants in the United States, this fact sheet provides the latest estimates of potential beneficiaries.[1] MPI researchers modeled potential beneficiaries under three legislative proposals: the *Recognizing America's Children Act* (RAC),[2] introduced in the House in March 2017; the *DREAM Act of 2017* unveiled by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) on July 20, 2017;[3] and the DREAM Act that passed the House in December 2010.[4]

All three measures would require applicants to meet a range of eligibility criteria before they could be considered for conditional status, which they would have to maintain for a number of years while they fulfill additional requirements before becoming eligible for legal permanent residence.

MPI's analysis models the populations that 1) meet the age-at-entry and years of U.S. residence criteria (in other words, the maximum potential numbers who could be covered if they met all additional criteria); 2) the subset that could immediately gain conditional status because they also met educational criteria; and 3) conditional status recipients who could later progress to legal permanent residence as a result of meeting additional educational or professional criteria.

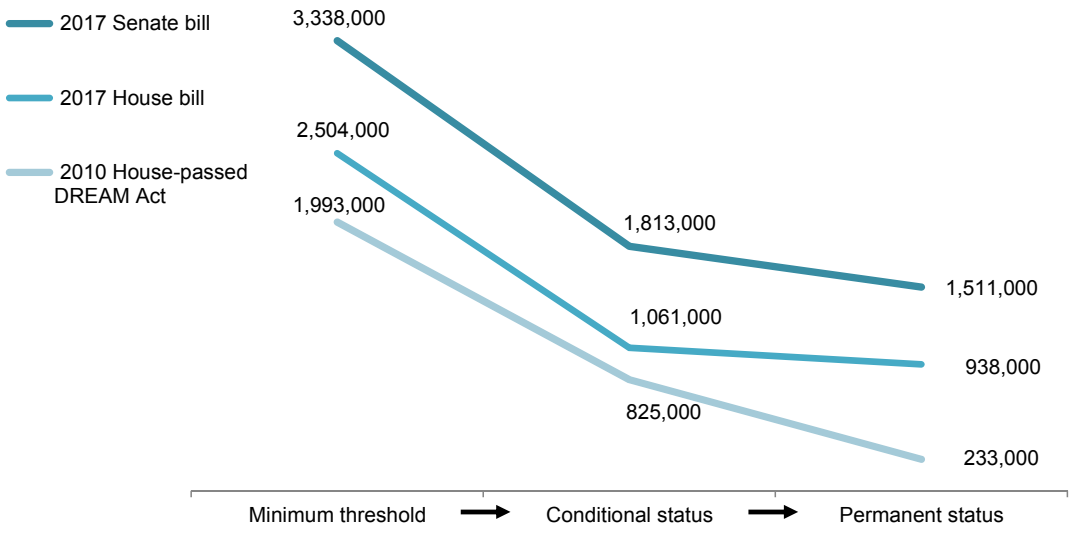
The number of people eligible to immediately receive conditional legal status would range from 1.8 million under the Senate bill to 1.1 million under the RAC legislation introduced by Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL). By comparison, the 2010 legislation would have made 825,000 unauthorized youth immediately eligible for conditional status. (See Table 2 later in report for more detail.)

Only some of those holding conditional status would likely gain legal permanent residence as a result of meeting additional criteria in the legislation: earning a postsecondary degree, serving honorably in the military, or holding continuous employment for a certain number of years. MPI estimates 1.5 million would be placed on a pathway to legal permanent residence under the Senate bill and 938,000 under the 2017 House legislation. The 2010 House-passed legislation would have placed 233,000 people on a path to permanent residence (See Figure 1.)

Overall, a total of 3.3 million unauthorized youth meet the minimum age at arrival and years of residence thresholds under the Senate bill and 2.5 million under the 2017 House measure. However, a significant number would need to complete or re-enroll in high school or obtain a General Education Diploma (GED) before they could apply for conditional status.

The DACA experience suggests the population lacking the required educational qualifications is unlikely to re-enroll in high school or adult education programs at significant levels. While MPI estimates 68 percent of the 1.3 million unauthorized immigrants who were immediately eligible to apply for DACA had done so

Figure 1. Populations Potentially Eligible to Apply, Receive Conditional Status, or Obtain Legal Permanent Residence under Three Legislative Proposals



Notes: Minimum threshold represents those potentially eligible to apply based on meeting only the age-at-arrival and years of U.S. residence criteria (the 2010 bill also set a maximum age cap to apply); *conditional status* indicates the subset who have earned a high school diploma or GED or are enrolled in high school, or have valid employment authorization; *permanent status* indicates those who have earned a postsecondary degree, served honorably in the military, or held continuous employment for the number of years specified in the legislation.
Source: Migration Policy Institute (MPI) analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) with legal status assignments by James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute.

as of March 2017, the application rate fell to 52 percent when the nearly 400,000 who met all criteria but for education were included.[5] The promise of conditional status and then legal permanent residence might motivate more potential DREAMers to re-enroll in school than has been the case with DACA, which offers only temporary relief from deportation, though by how much it is not possible to know.

Given the significant overlap in qualifying criteria between the DACA program and the current DREAM bills, MPI estimates suggest that the vast majority of current DACA recipients would be able to apply for conditional status under either version, although directly modeling this overlap is not possible due to data limitations.

I. Introduction

Responding to the longstanding congressional impasse over reform of the U.S. immigration system and under significant pressure from immigrant-rights groups, President Barack Obama on June 15, 2012 issued an executive order creating the Deferred Action for Children Arrivals (DACA) program. DACA was largely modeled on the requirements of the *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act* (DREAM Act), a piece of legislation considered periodically in Congress with minor variations since its introduction in 2001.[6] Both DACA and the DREAM Act focus on unauthorized immigrant youth and young adults with no criminal record who were brought to the United States as children. Both require that prospective beneficiaries complete their secondary education. Unlike the DREAM Act, DACA does not offer a path to legalization. It provides temporary relief from deportation and eligibility for work authorization.[7]

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimated that about 1.9 million unauthorized immigrants were eligible for DACA as of 2016, including 1.3 million who met the program's age, age at arrival, and education requirements, and an additional 630,000 who could meet these requirements at some point in the future.[8] As of March 31, 2017 a total of 787,580 unauthorized immigrants had received protection under the program since its August 2012 launch.[9] Enrollment in DACA is valid for a period of two years, after which beneficiaries must reapply to retain their benefits.

Critics have charged that DACA represents an unconstitutional exercise of executive power, rewards lawbreakers, and fosters new illegal immigration.[10] Proponents of the program, meanwhile, have argued that it has fundamentally enhanced the lives of unauthorized immigrants and their families.

Research has demonstrated improved outcomes for DACA beneficiaries and the economic contributions of DACA grantees to their local communities.[11] Both DACA and the proposed DREAM Act have been popular, within and beyond the immigrant community. Consistently, public opinion polls have shown largely favorable attitudes among registered voters and support for a permanent solution for DREAMers.[12] However, the future of the DACA program and its recipients became unclear after the election of President Donald Trump, who campaigned on the idea of immediate DACA repeal yet appeared to have a change of heart once in office, calling recipients "incredible kids."[13] As word emerged of a bipartisan DREAM Act bill in the Senate, however, White House staff swiftly suggested the President would veto the legislation if it reached his desk.[14]

A. New Challenge

Looming over White House and congressional considerations is an ultimatum that moved debate over DACA's fate into a new phase. Ten states, led by Texas, in a June 29, 2017 letter formally gave the Justice Department notice they would challenge DACA in federal court unless the program is rescinded by September 5.[15] This is not an idle threat, given that in 2015 the federal courts blocked implementation of DACA expansions and a related program seeking to provide DACA-like benefits to unauthorized immigrant parents with U.S.-citizen or legal permanent resident children.

Table 1. Qualifying Criteria for Conditional Legal Status and Legal Permanent Residency under Three Legislative Proposals

Key Criteria	2017 Senate Bill (Graham-Durbin)	2017 House Bill (Curbelo)	2010 House-Passed Bill
Minimum threshold			
Age at arrival	Before 18	Before 16	Before 16
Length of U.S. residence	4 years or more	5 years or more	5 years or more
Lack of criminal record/ Good moral character	Yes	Yes	Yes
Conditional status			
Minimum age	None	18	None
Maximum age	None	None	Under 30
Minimum educational attainment	U.S. high school diploma/GED	U.S. high school diploma/GED	U.S. high school diploma/GED
Special considerations for those enrolled in secondary school	Yes	No	No
Special considerations for DACA beneficiaries	Yes	No	N/A
Special considerations for those with valid work authorization	N/A	Yes	N/A
Lack of criminal record/ Good moral character	Yes	Yes	Yes
Length of conditional status	8 years	10 years (5-year initial and 5-year extension)	10 years (5-year initial and 5-year extension)
Legal permanent residence			
Educational attainment	An associate's degree or at least two years toward a bachelor's degree	Enrolled in higher education institution during first year of conditional status, and obtained an associate's degree or more during conditional phase	An associate's degree or at least two years toward a bachelor's degree
Active military service or honorable discharge	At least 2 years of service	At least 3 years of service	At least 2 years of service
Duration of continuous employment	At least 3 years	At least 4 years during first 5 years of conditional status	N/A
Lack of criminal record/ Good moral character	Yes	Yes	Yes

Sources: For the *DREAM Act of 2017* provisions, comments made by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-Il) at the bill's introduction on July 20, 2017, as well as legislative highlights circulated by their offices; *Recognizing America's Children Act,* HR 1468, 115th Cong., 1st sess. (introduced March 9, 2017), www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1468/text; for the 2010 DREAM Act, the *Removal Clarification Act of 2010*, HR 5281, 111th Cong., 2nd sess. (amended December 8, 2010), www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/5281/text.

While it remains unclear how the administration will react, with the President calling the decision about DACA's future "very, very hard to make,"[16] there are three bills pending in Congress that could alter the course of policy in this area. One is the *Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream and Grow our Economy Act* (BRIDGE Act),[17] a bipartisan bill introduced in both chambers that would make the existing DACA program permanent under statute, but would not offer a pathway to permanent residency. The two others are the RAC Act in the House and the Graham-Durbin legislation in the Senate.

B. Drawing from the DREAM Act

The proposed 2017 measures share essential requirements with earlier versions of the DREAM Act that eligible unauthorized individuals must meet in order to legalize their status, including having a clean criminal record and maintaining good moral character (see Table 1 for detailed qualifying criteria). They all propose a two-tiered process:

1) ***Conditional legal status:*** To be eligible, applicants have to demonstrate that they arrived in the United States under a certain age, have lived in the country for a number of years, and have earned a U.S. high school diploma or its equivalent.

2) ***Legal permanent residence:*** Conditional status could be removed if within a certain period of time applicants successfully obtain at least a two-year postsecondary degree or serve honorably in the military. Additionally, for the first time in the history of the DREAM legislation, both the 2017 House and Senate bills include a third pathway to permanent status: continuous employment.

To provide policymakers and stakeholders with updated information on the scope of legislation and potentially affected populations, this fact sheet analyzes U.S. Census Bureau 2014 American Community Survey (ACS) data to estimate the number of unauthorized immigrants who could gain conditional status under various legislative proposals based on their age at arrival, continuous presence in the United States, and other criteria. Next, by applying rates of graduation from high school and college, military enlistment, and labor force participation, the fact sheet provides estimates of the number and share of persons who could achieve legal permanent resident (LPR) status (in other words, getting a green card).

Box 1. Data Considerations

The MPI researchers developed these estimates based on the best data and methods available, but note certain limitations, among them the inability to account for disqualifying criminal convictions and "good moral character" criteria that could reduce the pool of potentially eligible beneficiaries.

Modeling the future enrollment, employment, and other behaviors of individuals who are unauthorized is difficult, particularly given the fact that they might experience barriers to enrollment or employment in some states and localities.

Also, the data used in this fact sheet are from 2014 and as such may overestimate the number of unauthorized immigrants present in 2017 who meet the age and years of U.S. residency requirements because some may have left the United States, adjusted their status, or died.

Finally, to model the likelihood of obtaining conditional and then legal permanent resident statuses, the researchers used existing educational, employment, and military service data for broader groups of people, which may over- or underestimate the rates for the unauthorized population. Estimates were produced separately for Hispanic and non-Hispanic men and women to account for differences in educational attainment, military enlistment, and labor force participation. For the purposes of this fact sheet, only total population estimates are reported.

II. Findings

Drawing upon an innovative MPI methodology to estimate the legal status and characteristics of immigrants in the United States, this section examines the populations potentially eligible under three legislative scenarios (see Table 2). The empirical analyses provides estimates for the two bills pending in Congress that would offer a pathway to legal permanent residence, and as a comparison point for their forerunner, the DREAM Act that passed the House in 2010.[18]

A. Estimating Populations Meeting Minimum Threshold and Conditional Status Criteria

The overall number of unauthorized immigrants who meet the age at arrival and length of U.S. residence minimum threshold[19] ranges from 2.5 million under the 2017 House RAC bill to 3.3 million under the newly introduced Senate bill (see Table 2, top panel). By comparison, close to 2 million individuals would have met the initial criteria under the DREAM Act approved by the House in 2010.

Table 2. Estimates of Potential Beneficiaries and Their Likelihood of Obtaining Conditional Status Under Three Legislative Proposals

	2017 Senate Bill (Graham-Durbin)	2017 House Bill (Curbelo)	2010 House-Passed Bill
Potential beneficiaries who met the age at arrival and length of U.S. residence criteria	**3,338,000**	**2,504,000**	**1,993,000**
Immediately eligible for conditional status	**1,813,000**	**1,061,000**	**825,000**
Age 18 and older: Have an associate's degree or higher	193,000	141,000	96,000
Age 18 and older: Have a high school diploma, GED certificate, or some college but no associate's degree	1,184,000	919,000	729,000
Ages 14-17: Currently enrolled in high school	435,000	N/A	N/A
May become eligible for conditional status in the future*	**1,526,000**	**1,444,000**	**1,168,000**
Children under age 14	387,000	347,000	347,000
Ages 14-17: Currently enrolled in high school	N/A	414,000	414,000
Ages 14-17: Not enrolled in high school	16,000	15,000	15,000
Ages 18 and older: No high school diploma or GED, and not enrolled**	1,122,000	667,000	392,000

* If they obtain a high school diploma or GED certificate or re-enroll in high school or a qualifying adult education program.
** Under the Senate measure, some adults ages 18 and older who lack a high school diploma but are attending an education program leading to a GED may be eligible for conditional status, as in the current DACA program. Due to data limitations, MPI cannot model participation in adult education programs. It is likely that this population is small because of the significant barriers that unauthorized immigrant adults face in returning to school.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2014 ACS and 2008 SIPP, with legal status assignments by Bachmeier and Van Hook.

Estimating the Population Qualifying for Conditional Legal Status

Depending on the legislation, anywhere from about 1 million to 1.8 million of those who meet the minimum thresholds under the 2017 House and Senate bills could be immediately eligible for conditional status based upon meeting certain educational criteria (see Table 2, second panel). By comparison, 825,000 would have been immediately eligible under the 2010 House-passed bill. The group of immediately eligible for conditional status includes:

- 141,000 to 193,000 adults who have already obtained an associate's degree or higher, and thus would qualify for both conditional and permanent statuses (see Table 2).
- 919,000 to 1.2 million adults who are U.S. high school graduates or have completed a GED program but have not completed postsecondary education.
- The Senate bill would also allow the 435,000 youth (ages 14 to 17) currently enrolled in school to gain conditional status; many of these are likely to be DACA recipients. The House bill excludes this group because 18 is the minimum age at which someone could apply.

The last panel of Table 2 shows the three groups that would be ineligible for conditional status but may become eligible in the future:

- ***Children under age 14.*** Some are still too young to have earned a high school degree. MPI estimates that under the 2017 bills anywhere between 347,000 and 387,000 children younger than age 14 would fall into this category. They would become eligible if they earn a high school diploma or a GED.
- ***Children ages 14 to 17 enrolled in school.*** Since the key criteria under the 2017 House bill is to have a high school diploma or its equivalent, this group, estimated at 414,000, would be ineligible for conditional status right away. Likewise, they would need to remain in school and graduate with a high school degree or equivalent before moving to the next step.
- ***Children ages 14 to 17 not enrolled in school.*** A small number of potential beneficiaries (15,000-16,000) are youth ages 14 to 17 who dropped out of school. They face the challenge of returning and completing high school to become eligible for conditional status.
- ***Adults ages 18 and over without a high school degree or GED.*** The largest group of those who are not eligible for conditional status but could become so with additional education is young adults (ages 18 and older) who dropped out of school. Under the Senate bill, this group numbers 1.1 million, while it is 667,000 under the House version. (In comparison, just 392,000 individuals were part of this group under the 2010 House-passed bill in light of lack of educational attainment and the maximum age cap). To become eligible for conditional status, these young adults would need to obtain a GED first. As earlier MPI research demonstrates, this group lacks English proficiency and has high poverty rates.[20] Women are often stay-home mothers and men work in low-skilled jobs. Extensive research demonstrates that each of these characteristics represents a significant obstacle to returning and completing education. The combination of these risk factors would make it very hard for this group to move forward.

B. Estimating the Population that Could Adjust to Legal Permanent Residence

Unauthorized youth able to successfully obtain conditional status would have a certain period to meet the criteria for LPR status. Earlier versions of the DREAM Act included two pathways to LPR status: postsecondary education and military service. Estimating the number who would pursue the military pathway is difficult because not everyone would want or be able to take the military service route. Prospective recruits have to pass both medical and aptitude tests, and the military has become more selective in its recruitment. The 2017 House and Senate measures recognize these challenges and would make it easier to gain LPR status for some applicants by offering a third pathway: Continuous employment.

This section models these three pathways. First the MPI researchers estimated the number of people who could gain LPR status through postsecondary education; followed by military service, and then via continuous employment for each of the three legislative scenarios studied in this fact sheet (see Table 3):

- ***Postsecondary education.*** The researchers used the college completion rates (associate degree and higher) of LPRs from low-income families[21] to estimate the number of conditional status holders who are likely to obtain a postsecondary education. Under the 2017 Senate bill, an estimated 491,000 people (or 27 percent of the 1.8 million with conditional status) would be able to obtain at least an associate's degree and thereby gain LPR status. This number is higher than under the House bills (2017 and 2010) in part because a significant number (193,000 under the Senate bill, see Table 2) already had completed postsecondary education. Under the 2017 House bill, an estimated 321,000 (or 30 percent of the 1.1 million with conditional status) would be able to achieve LPR status through the college education pathway.

Table 3. Estimates of Beneficiaries with Conditional Status and Their Likelihood of Adjusting to Legal Permanent Residence under Three Legislative Proposals

	2017 Senate Bill (Graham-Durbin)	2017 House Bill (Curbelo)	2010 House-Passed Bill
Immediately eligible for conditional status	**1,813,000**	**1,061,000**	**825,000**
Pathways to legal permanent residence			
Education	491,000	321,000	202,000
Military	61,000	37,000	31,000
Employment*	959,000	579,000	N/A
Eligible for legal permanent residence	**1,511,000**	**938,000**	**233,000**
Not eligible for legal permanent residence	301,000	123,000	592,000
Share eligible for permanent residence among people with conditional status	**83%**	**88%**	**28%**

* Under the 2010 House-passed legislation, employment was not a pathway to legal permanent residence.
Source: MPI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2014 ACS and 2008 SIPP, with legal status assignments by Bachmeier and Van Hook.

- ***Military service.*** Beyond the college pathway, some conditional status holders are likely to attempt to enlist in the military. The researchers examined the share of all adults in the United States (ages 18 to 44) with a high school education who are enlisted. Roughly 1 percent of them (0.9 percent for Hispanics and 1.2 percent for non-Hispanics) were enlisted.[22] Given the incentives the DREAM Act could offer, the researchers made the generous assumption that 5 percent of unauthorized young adults would follow this pathway to LPR status. Using this share as a proxy, an estimated 61,000 persons would qualify for LPR status through military service under the Senate bill and 37,000 under the 2017 House bill.

- ***Employment.*** Data show that more than 70 percent of the overall unauthorized adult population are working or at least looking for a job.[23] Obtaining work authorization through conditional status would likely to boost labor force participation even higher. The researchers estimated labor force participation rates of immigrants who already have legal status to come up with a proxy to guide modeling for conditional status beneficiaries seeking to use this pathway.[24] Applying these rates, an estimated 959,000 persons could use the employment pathway to obtain LPR status under the Senate bill and 579,000 under the 2017 House bill.

In sum, MPI estimates suggest that about 1.5 million people (or 83 percent of the 1.8 million with conditional status) would be likely to fulfill their requirements under the Senate bill to obtain legal permanent residence. About 938,000 (or 88 percent of the 1.1 million with conditional status under the 2017 House bill) would be able to become LPRs under RAC. In contrast, and largely because employment was not an option, just 28 percent of those with conditional status under the 2010 House-passed DREAM Act would have been able to obtain LPR status.

III. Conclusion

Congressional efforts to legalize unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the United States as children have been pending in Congress since 2001, with the DREAM Act garnering notable bipartisan support over the years. As the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which has provided temporary relief from deportation to nearly 800,000 DREAMers, faces a deeply uncertain future, there may be new momentum—and pressure—on Congress to act to grant legal status to a population viewed sympathetically by many on both sides of the political aisle.

A pair of bills introduced in the House and Senate in 2017, largely modeled on earlier versions of the DREAM Act, would offer conditional legal status and eventually legal permanent residence to unauthorized immigrants who entered as children; earn eligibility through completion of educational, professional, and other criteria; have a clean criminal record; and maintain "good moral character."

The estimates presented in this fact sheet are offered to inform policymakers and other stakeholders about the potential reach of the bills examined. While Migration Policy Institute researchers have found that anywhere from 2.5 million to 3.3 million unauthorized immigrants would meet the minimum age at entry and years of U.S. residence thresholds under the *Recognizing America's Children Act* introduced in the House and the Senate DREAM Act of 2017, in reality far smaller numbers would fulfill the educational criteria that would give them conditional status—and even fewer would satisfy the additional educational or professional criteria that would allow them to earn legal permanent residence. MPI's analysis shows the numbers gaining conditional status would range from slightly more than 1 million to 1.8 million under the House and Senate bills; and those moving on to earn legal permanent residence (in other words getting a green card) an even smaller number: 938,000 to 1.5 million.

As DACA's experience has shown, potential beneficiaries who lack the educational criteria to qualify immediately do not re-enroll in qualifying educational programs at significant levels, and thus cannot benefit. Immigrant adults without a high school degree are the largest group among those who would not immediately qualify for conditional status under the 2017 House and Senate proposals. For this subpopulation obtaining a GED may be considerably challenging due to limited English proficiency, high levels of poverty, and family pressures.

Ultimately, it remains to be seen if these legislative proposals can pass Congress amid a highly polarized environment on immigration. At the same time, policymakers now stand at a crossroads as the DACA program's future appears uncertain and hundreds of thousands of recipients could soon find themselves without any protection.

Endnotes

1 Jeanne Batalova and Margie McHugh, *DREAM vs. Reality: An Analysis of Potential DREAM Act Beneficiaries* (Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute, 2010), www.migrationpolicy.org/research/dream-vs-reality-analysis-potential-dream-act-beneficiaries.

2 *Recognizing America's Children Act*, HR 1468, 115th Cong., 1st sess., www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1468/text?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22recognizing+america%27s+children%22%5D%7D&r=1. The measure was introduced March 9, 2017, and has 17 Republican cosponsors.

3 The full text of the *DREAM Act of 2017* had yet to be published as of this writing.

4 The *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010* (DREAM Act) was approved by the House on a 216-198 vote on December 8, 2010, www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/5281. The legislation did not advance in the Senate during the remainder of the 111th Congress.

5 To be eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, individuals must be enrolled in high school, have a high school diploma or General Education Diploma (GED), or be enrolled in an adult education program that leads to a high school diploma or GED; the "immediately eligible" group in MPI's estimates includes those with a high school diploma or GED. Those in the "but for education" group meet the age, age-at-arrival, and years of U.S. residence criteria but would have to enroll in a qualifying adult education program to become eligible. Migration Policy Institute (MPI) Data Hub, "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools," accessed July 19, 2017, www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles.

6 S. 1291, the *Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act*, was introduced on August 1, 2001 by Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT), www.congress.gov/bill/107th-congress/senate-bill/1291. The measure passed the Senate Judiciary Committee but died in the Senate.

7 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), "Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)," last updated December 22, 2016, www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/consideration-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca.

8 MPI Data Hub, "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Data Tools."

9 USCIS, "Number of Form I-821D, Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, by Fiscal Year, Quarter, Intake, Biometrics and Case Status Fiscal Year 2012-2017 (March 31)," www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performancedata_fy2017_qtr2.pdf.

10 Dan Stein, "Let DACA Program Lapse: Opposing View," *USA Today,* February 21, 2017, www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2017/02/21/let-daca-program-lapse-opposing-view/98222400/.

11 Roberto G. Gonzales, *DACA at Year Three: Challenges and Opportunities in Accessing Higher Education and Employment* (Washington, DC: American Immigration Council, 2016), www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/daca-year-three-challenges-and-opportunities-accessing-higher-education-and-employment.

12 Morning Consult and Politico, "National Tracking Poll #170409, Crosstabulation Results," Table POL16, national poll, Morning Consult and Politico, April 20–24, 2017, https://morningconsult.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170409_crosstabs_Politico_v1_AG-2.pdf; First Focus, "Public Support for the Dream Act," national poll, First Focus, June 10-13, 2010, https://firstfocus.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/DREAM-Poll-2010.pdf.

13 Nolan D. McCaskill, "Trump Says He Will Treat Dreamers 'with Heart'," Politico, February 16, 2017, www.politico.com/story/2017/02/trump-press-conference-dreamers-heart-235103.

14 Rafael Bernal, "Graham, Durbin Revive Bill to Help 'Dreamers'," *The Hill*, July 19, 2017, http://thehill.com/homenews/senate/342785-graham-durbin-revive-bill-to-help-dreamers.

15 Texas Attorney General's Office, "AG Paxton Leads 10-State Coalition Urging Trump Administration to Phase out Unlawful Obama-Era DACA Program" (press release, June 29, 2017), www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-leads-10-state-coalition-urging-trump-administration-to-phase-out.

16 Voice of America, "Trump Says Any Challenge to DACA Is His Decision," July 13, 2017, www.voanews.com/a/trump-daca-decision/3943875.html.

17 *Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream and Grow our Economy Act* (BRIDGE Act), HR 496, 115th Cong., 1st sess., www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/496. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO), has 25 Democratic and Republican sponsors.

18 The methodology used here builds upon the previous methodological approach that MPI developed in estimating DREAM Act beneficiaries for both conditional status and legal permanent residence in earlier years; for more detail on the methodology, see Batalova and McHugh, *DREAM vs. Reality.*

19 In the case of the DREAM Act that passed the House in 2010, there was also a maximum age at time of application requirement (under age 30).

20 Batalova and McHugh, *DREAM vs. Reality.*

21 The MPI dataset with legal status assignments permits estimating the share with an associate's degree or higher among adults who meet the following criteria: They are legal permanent residents; are ages 18 and older; live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level; and have earned at least a high school degree or its equivalent. Unauthorized youth with conditional status are likely to resemble this group of LPRs the most because like LPRs, DREAMers will not have access to the Pell grants and other financial assistance available to U.S. citizens, and many are in low-income and poor families.

22 Enlistment data by Hispanic origin are from Department of Defense, "Population Representation in the Military Services, Fiscal Year 2014, Summary Report," updated September 14, 2016, www.people.mil/Portals/56/Documents/2014%20Summary.pdf?ver=2016-09-14-154051-563. Data on the total population with high school education or higher (ages 18 to 44) by Hispanic origin are from an MPI tabulation of the 2014 ACS.

23 MPI Data Hub, "Profile of the Unauthorized Population: United States," accessed July 19, 2017, www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/US.

24 Using ACS 2014 data with MPI legal status assignments, the researchers found that labor force participation rates among legally present adults (ages 18 to 44) were as follows: 92 percent for Hispanic men, 72 percent for Hispanic women, 86 percent for non-Hispanic men, and 71 percent for non-Hispanic women.

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Acknowledgments

The authors express their gratitude to a number of Migration Policy Institute (MPI) colleagues for their expert guidance and insight, including President Michael Fix, Director of Research for U.S. Programs Randy Capps, Senior Fellow Doris Meissner, Senior Policy Analyst Julia Gelatt, and Associate Policy Analyst Jie Zong. They also thank Liz Heimann for the design and production of the fact sheet.

This research was supported by the Ford Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, Unbound Philanthropy, and the Open Society Foundations.

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Cover Design and Typesetting: Liz Heimann, MPI

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Suggested citation: Batalova, Jeanne, Ariel G. Ruiz Soto, and Michelle Mittelstadt. 2017. *Protecting the DREAM: The Potential Impact of Different Legislative Scenarios for Unauthorized Youth*. Washington, DC: Migration Policy Institute.

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