



# DACA Advocacy Toolkit

## Business Leaders

### September 2017

#### **Why Get Involved?**

The consequences of repealing DACA are severe and profound: ending the program eliminates the ability of 800,000 of our best and brightest young people to work legally in this country, and puts every one of them at immediate risk of deportation from the only country they know as home. These Dreamers are going to school, and are part of our country and our communities. They serve in our military, and they are teachers, nurses, and engineers. **We need Congress to pass a bipartisan Dream Act immediately to protect these incredible young people who are already contributing to our communities and our economy.** If there was ever a time thoughtful, compassionate business leadership was needed – leadership that put people and the well-being of our nation’s economy ahead of politics – it is now.

#### **DACA Background**

On September 5th, Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced, on behalf of the President Trump’s Administration, that DACA will be terminated in six months, meaning 800,000 current DACA recipients will be forced out of their jobs and put under threat of deportation, unless Congress acts. It is also possible that some states could still sue before this timeline, meaning DACA recipients are under imminent threat. If Congress fails to take action, in six months individuals will not be able to renew their DACA, thousands of individuals will fall out of status on a weekly basis over the next two years until all 800,000 current DACA recipients are stripped of

their ability to work and are subject to the threat of deportation. Additionally, removing 800,000 people from the workforce will cost \$460 billion in lost GDP over a decade. It will cost employers \$3.4 billion in unnecessary turnover costs, and contributions to Medicare and Social Security will be cut by \$24.6 billion over a decade. What is clear is that Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle must immediately come together - right now - and pass a bipartisan Dream Act: 800,000 lives are at stake.

**FWD.us Rapid Response Advocacy Plan:** The following plan was put in place by FWD.us Georgia to engage a variety of stakeholders in meaningful advocacy

1. Direct member engagement (FWD staff, lobbyists and high level advocates)
  - a. Intel gathering and sharing resources with Dem and GOP offices
2. Grassroots coalition engagement (grassroots advocacy)
  - a. Engaging non-profits and advocacy groups
  - b. Sharing grassroots resources
  - c. Placing media surrogates and stories in press
3. Influencer and leader engagement (donors, business leaders, center-right focus)
  - a. Republican engagement through their base
  - b. Engaging unlikely allies
  - c. **Business advocacy toolkit**
4. Community support (resources and emotional wellbeing)
  - a. Recruit counselors, legal professionals and local resources for directly impacted folks

### **Advocacy Actions for Business Leaders**

With Dreamers under threat, we must advocate for a bipartisan legislative solution from Congress. Below are a couple action steps you can take to leverage your influence towards that goal:

1. Call your Senators and Representatives
  - a. Contact information can be found below. A simple call script: *Hi, my name is [NAME] and I'm a constituent and business owner from [CITY]. I'm calling to urge [Senator/Representative] to take immediate action to protect 29,000 Dreamers in Georgia and continue to allow them to contribute to our economies and communities. [Feel free to share stories of DACA employees or what the loss of DACA means to you, your family, your business, and bottom line]*
2. Engage on social media
  - a. **Social media toolkit attached**
  - b. Make it personal, share stories of your employees

3. Write a letter to Georgia's congressional delegation asking them to urgently work on a legislative solution
  - a. Use company letterhead, address letter to the entire delegation
  - b. Share stories of DACA employees or how your business/industry will be affected
  - c. Contact [Sam@fwd.us](mailto:Sam@fwd.us) for assistance drafting and placing letter
4. Write an op-ed or letter to the editor expressing your support for Dreamers and urging congress to work on legislation
  - a. Contact [Sam@fwd.us](mailto:Sam@fwd.us) for assistance drafting and placing op-eds and letters.
5. Request a meeting with your Congressman's office
  - a. Contact their district office and ask to schedule a meeting ASAP
  - b. Call script: *Hi, my name is [NAME]. I'm a constituent and business owner/leader from [CITY]. I'm calling to schedule a meeting with [DISTRICT DIRECTOR] about our company's support for legislation that will protect Dreamers and fix our broken immigration system.*
  - c. Contact [Sam@fwd.us](mailto:Sam@fwd.us) for assistance scheduling and preparing for congressional meetings
6. Use your platform to set up dinners, company lunches, gatherings, and invite your networks to advocate for Dream legislation.
  - a. Invite members of congress or their staff for a tour and/or roundtable on immigration

## **Contact Information and Statements from Members of Congress**

### **GA Senators:**

#### **Senator David Perdue**

DC Phone Number: (202) 224-3521

"President Obama acted outside of his constitutional authority when he unilaterally changed our immigration laws through executive order. It is clear President Trump and Attorney General Sessions are committed to tackling the problems with our broken immigration system. Moving forward, it is imperative that any immigration proposals considered by Congress protect the interests of working Americans, including immigrants. We cannot repeat the mistakes of the past with a comprehensive immigration bill that does not work. The RAISE Act's changes to our legal immigration system should be part of the solution. I will continue working with Senator Cotton and my colleagues to advance this merit-based system that is pro-worker, pro-growth, and proven to work."

**Senator Johnny Isakson**

DC Phone Number: (202) 224-3643

“Children who received status under President Obama's deferred action executive order should not be punished for their parents choices. Congress should protect these young people while also working towards stronger measures to secure our borders and enforce immigration laws going forward.”

**Congressional Delegation:****Buddy Carter-District 1 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-5831

"President Trump made the right move today by ending this unconstitutional and illegal amnesty program. President Obama should have never implemented this program which he himself said he did not have the authority to do. Now, President Trump has called on Congress to act. We are a nation of laws and we must enforce our immigration laws. This is one way we uphold our greatest responsibility of providing for the common defense. It is in the best interest of the citizens of the United States and our homeland security that we ensure that all those wishing to come and stay in our nation not only contribute in a positive way to our American society, but also come here in the proper and legal way. Amnesty should never be the answer. As Congress moves forward with responsible immigration reform, I will work to ensure any actions are made in the best interest of American families, taxpayers, and those seeking to come to America through proper, legal channels.”

**Sanford Bishop- District 2 (D)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-3631

“DACA provides temporary relief from deportation as well as work authorization to those who were brought to the United States as children, many of whom contribute to their communities and know no other country but the United States as home. These individuals include talented students, hard-working high school graduates, and veterans who pose no threat to public safety. Going after these individuals would consume much-needed resources needed by law enforcement to target those who would do America harm. By rescinding DACA, the administration is dragging us further and further away from necessary and common-sense immigration reform. I call for Congress to come together on a long-term, compassionate, and comprehensive solution to our broken immigration system.”

**Drew Ferguson- District 3 (R )**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-5901

**Hank Johnson- District 4 (D)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-1605

“By rescinding DACA, President Trump is sending a clear and unambiguous message to his Steve Bannon-alt right supporters that they have a friend in the White House. This rescission is

consistent with President Trump's despicable pardoning of convicted civil rights violator Sheriff Joe Arpaio, which came on the heels of the President's reference to Nazi, Klan and alt-right sympathizers in Charlottesville as "good people." President Trump did the wrong thing in failing to protect our DACA youth, and history will judge him harshly. Congress must now move immediately to pass legislation that protects these courageous, patriotic DREAMers."

**John Lewis- District 5 (D)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-3801

**Karen Handel- District 6 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-4501

**Rob Woodall- District 7 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-4272

"Laws can only be made by the President and the Congress working together. That is what the Constitution requires. President Obama's 'go it alone' approach was always going to end with the anxiety that DACA participants are experiencing today, and I applaud President Trump for committing to work with Congress on real, permanent solutions."

**Austin Scott- District 8 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-6531

**Doug Collins- District 9 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-9893

"Americans have always been champions of legal immigration and the rule of law. President Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals memo demonstrates his understanding of the law, to which we are all bound. Unfortunately, the previous administration disregarded the law in a 2012 decision that remains unconstitutional.

Because the Department of Homeland Security under the previous administration circumvented the legislative process and ignored the law, it saddled undocumented young people with ambiguity regarding their immigration status. At the same time, the decision undermined the role of Congress in making laws that uphold the Constitution and promote the security of Americans. The president is thoughtfully correcting the error he inherited, recognizing that our strong commitment to the rule of law serves both America and her neighbors. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and the Trump Administration to bring needed reform to the immigration system while continuing our nation's legacy of upholding the law and the separation of powers."

**Jody Hice- District 10 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-4101

**Barry Loudermilk- District 11 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-2931

“Congress must secure our borders, overhaul the convoluted immigration system, and effectively enforce the laws. Tweaks by Congress, and executive orders by various administrations, have created an immigration policy that favors illegal immigration and punishes those who want to legally come here to work. President Barack Obama’s executive order was outside the constitutional authority of the executive branch, and I agree with President Trump’s decision to reverse the order and call on Congress to fundamentally reform our immigration policy.”

**Rick Allen- District 12 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-2931

“It is the job of congress to write our laws, and President Obama’s DACA program was a clear example of executive overreach. I look forward in working with my colleagues in congress to find a feasible permanent solution. I thank President Trump for keeping his word to the American people to work with Congress on meaningful immigration reform.”

**David Scott- District 13 (D)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-2939

“I am very upset by the President’s actions today on DACA, and I plan to meet with him to get him to change his mind on this decision. "It is unconscionable to punish children for the actions of their parents. These are children and young adults who were brought to the U.S. as small kids, and they know no other home but here in America. They attend schools, hold jobs and are valuable members of our communities across the nation. "They are American through and through, and deserve the same respect, dignity and chance to succeed that the rest of us hope for ourselves.”

**Tom Graves- District 14 (R)**

DC Phone Number- 202-225-5211

“It’s up to Congress to make laws on border security and immigration reform,” he said. Graves did not specifically say whether he would support a plan to extend the DACA program. “The House has already passed funding for enhanced security and a wall on the southern border. There are new ideas on the table for fixing the legal immigration system and we will be debating those bills in the months ahead,” he added.