**Updated DACA Talking Points, July 18, 2017**

*Drafted by AV plus*

**DACA for Dreamers is under immediate threat**

* Opponents of DACA are scheming on many fronts to kill DACA. They could prevail in less than two months. Unless President Trump steps in to keep DACA in place and protect the Dreamers, he and his Administration will be held responsible for delivering a devastating blow to the futures of some 800,000 Dreamers – young people who live, study, and work in America. Yes, we need a permanent solution enacted by Congress, but we need to preserve DACA until that happens.
* Opponents are trying to bully President Trump into ending DACA. Frustrated that President Trump has preserved DACA, hardliners are trying to undermine him and force his hand. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, along with a handful of other Republican officials, is demanding that DACA be killed off or else. If the Trump Administration doesn’t end DACA by September 5th, Paxton is threatening to bring the case before a federal judge named Andrew Hanen, who is notoriously anti-immigrant and infamously blocked DAPA, the initiative that would have provided relief to some 4 million undocumented immigrants in America.
* Members of his own administration are working with DACA opponents to undermine President Trump. Paxton seems to have a willing ally Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who has long claimed DACA is unconstitutional). The play seems to be that Sessions could go to the boss and say, “we’re going to lose in the courts so let’s end it ourselves.”
* The President needs to stand up to the bullying and keep DACA until Congress enacts a permanent solution. Seemingly aware that Sessions is in the Paxton maneuver, President Trump recently declared that the decision regarding DACA’s future is “a decision that I make.” Moreover, as the *Los Angeles Times* [recently put it](http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-daca-recipients-anxious-about-future-20170717-story.html),“During his campaign, Trump pledged to ‘immediately end’ DACA. But in recent months, he has said Dreamers ‘shouldn't be very worried’ and described them as ‘these incredible kids.’ In order to keep DACA in place until Congress enacts a permanent solution, the President will need to stand up to Paxton’s bullying and order Sessions and others in his Administration to find a way to preserve a policy that has meant so much to so many.

**DACA has been a huge success**

* Killing off DACA would be an unmitigated disaster. DACA has unlocked economic opportunities for the nearly 800,000 beneficiaries who have come forward, passed background checks and been granted permission to live and work legally in America. Many have been able to fulfill their dreams of attending and completing college.Most are working legally, paying taxes and providing for their families.
* Removing 800,000 people from the workforce would be a self-inflicted economic wound. It would cost $433.4 billion in GDP loss over a decade. It would cost employers $3.4 billion in unnecessary turnover costs. Contributions to Medicare and Social Security would be cut by $24.6 billion over a decade. Some 6% of DACA recipients have launched businesses that employ American citizens. Almost 55% of DACA recipients have purchased a vehicle, and more than one in ten have purchased their first home. ([Report](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-12-13_ilrc_report_-_money_on_the_table_economic_costs_of_ending_daca.pdf))
* Public support for Dreamers is strong, even among Trump supporters. DACA is [popular](http://americasvoice.org/press_releases/new-poll-americans-oppose-repealing-daca-program-dreamers-58-28-margin/) with the public and enjoys the support of employers, educators, community leaders, and elected officials from both parties. [According to an April *Morning* *Consult* and *Politico* poll](https://morningconsult.com/2017/06/16/poll-trumps-decision-dreamers-popular-one-even-among-base/), 78% of American voters support giving Dreamers the chance to stay permanently in America, including 73% of Trump voters. Only 14% of all voters (23% of Trump supporters) think Dreamers should be deported.

**It’s Time to Support Dreamers and Defend DACA – and to Stand Up for Hardworking Immigrant Families with Deep Ties to America**

* Ending DACA is unconscionable and un-American. Killing DACA might excite Steve Bannon, Stephen Miller, Jeff Sessions and their nativist allies, but it’s contrary to the values we hold dear as Americans; it’s counterproductive as policy; and it’s downright cruel.
* The moment of truth has arrived. People of good will from across the political spectrum must take a stand. We must stand up for Dreamers, insisting that DACA be kept in place until Congress can pass a clean version of the DREAM Act or broader immigration reform. We must stand up for immigrant families who are settled in America and contribute so much to the country they now call home. And we must stand up to an agenda focused on deporting millions of hardworking immigrants with deep ties to America. If Trump won’t defend DACA, it will be yet another confirmation that every undocumented immigrant in America is under immediate threat.
* The clock is ticking, but we refuse to give up hope. For five years DACA has burned as bright as the torch atop the Statue of Liberty, and we cannot let radicals to extinguish the futures of young people who are an integral part of our nation’s future. We call on Republicans and Democrats to speak up for Dreamers and DACA. We call on President Trump to remind Attorney General Sessions that the President sets policy. We call on the Administration to tell Republican leaders in Texas to stop their underhanded, bullying behavior. And we call on allies of immigrants to make a stand for Dreamers and, indeed, all immigrants and refugees. The very idea of America as a nation that welcomes newcomers in a way that strengthens us is under siege. History has its eyes on us.