

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 300

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 217th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED DECEMBER 7, 2017

Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman VINCENT PRIETO

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

Assemblywoman ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ

District 32 (Bergen and Hudson)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to enact legislation to codify Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** urging Congress to enact legislation
2 codifying the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)
3 program.
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5 **WHEREAS**, In 2012, former President Barack Obama established by
6 executive action the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
7 (DACA) program; and
8 **WHEREAS**, Under DACA, some unauthorized immigrants who were
9 brought to the United States as minors, a group sometimes called
10 “Dreamers,” are given a chance to stay in the country, provided
11 they meet certain conditions; and
12 **WHEREAS**, The conditions include coming to the United States under
13 the age of 16, being enrolled in school, or having a high school
14 degree or GED equivalent, or being an honorably discharged
15 veteran of the Coast Guard or United States Armed Forces, and not
16 having a serious criminal conviction; and
17 **WHEREAS**, Although DACA does not give permanent lawful status to
18 those approved for the program, it provides a temporary relief from
19 deportation, along with a social security number and work permit
20 for a two-year period, along with the ability of to renew these
21 benefits; and
22 **WHEREAS**, To many undocumented youth, DACA represented the
23 first real opportunity to pursue the American Dream by permitting
24 them to secure a job that matched their skill set. Since many
25 DACA-eligible individuals are from low-income families, and
26 undocumented individuals do not have access to federal financial
27 aid, the ability to get a higher-paying job was important in their
28 ability to finance higher education more easily; and
29 **WHEREAS**, Since its inception, about 800,000 young people across the
30 nation, including 22,000 in this State, have received the benefits of
31 the DACA program and its recipients have capitalized on the
32 opportunity, getting better jobs, earning higher wages, increasing
33 their participation in the consumer economy and paying taxes; and
34 **WHEREAS**, President Donald J. Trump in September of 2017 ordered
35 an end to the program which may result, as early as March 2018, in
36 making some of the DACA recipients eligible for deportation,
37 unless Congress acts to save the program before it is phased out;
38 and
39 **WHEREAS**, Ending the program would significantly harm our State’s
40 economy. Eighty-seven percent of New Jersey’s 22,000 DACA
41 recipients are working and contributing \$66 million in State and
42 local taxes each year and it is estimated that ending the DACA
43 program would cause an immediate 32 percent reduction in those
44 tax payments; and
45 **WHEREAS**, The State would also lose an estimated \$1.6 billion each
46 year in State Gross Domestic Product, which would be the fifth
47 largest dollar loss of all states; and

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In 2012, former President Obama established by executive action the DACA program. Under DACA, unauthorized immigrants who were brought to the United States as minors, a group sometimes called “Dreamers,” are given a chance to stay in the country, provided they meet certain conditions including, coming to the United States under the age of 16, being enrolled in school, or having a high school degree

1 or GED equivalent, or being an honorably discharged veteran of the
2 Coast Guard or United States Armed Forces, and not having a serious
3 criminal conviction. DACA does not give permanent lawful status to
4 those approved for the program, but it does provide a temporary relief
5 from deportation, along with a social security number and work permit
6 for a two-year period, with the opportunity to renew. The recipients of
7 DACA have capitalized on the opportunities afforded by the program
8 by getting better jobs, earning higher wages, and thereby increasing
9 their participation in America's economy and society.

10 New Jersey has over 22,000 young immigrants participating in
11 DACA. The State stands to lose considerable tax revenues through
12 the elimination of the protections of DACA, and would also suffer
13 an estimated \$1.6 billion loss each year in State Gross Domestic
14 Product. The harm to our economy, however, does not compare to
15 the devastating effect this decision to eliminate DACA will have on
16 the lives of our youth who through no fault of their own were
17 brought to the United States as children and who have relied on the
18 opportunities afforded by DACA to attempt to realize the promise
19 of the American Dream. The decision to end DACA is cold-
20 hearted, shortsighted, and cruel, and this House strongly opposes
21 the decision.

22 This resolution urges Congress to take immediate action to
23 codify the provisions of DACA.