

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 17

---

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 218th LEGISLATURE

---

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2018 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator NELLIE POU**

**District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)**

**Senator JOSEPH F. VITALE**

**District 19 (Middlesex)**

**Senator M. TERESA RUIZ**

**District 29 (Essex)**

**SYNOPSIS**

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

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee with technical review.



SR17 POU, VITALE

2

1   **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Congress to enact legislation  
2       codifying the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)  
3       program.  
4  
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

1     **WHEREAS**, The negative effect on the State's economy is important,  
2         but it does not compare to the profound impact that ending DACA  
3         will have on the individual lives of young people in communities  
4         across our immigrant-rich State; and

5     **WHEREAS**, The decision to end the program will result in turning the  
6         lives of enterprising immigrant youth upside down, stealing their  
7         economic futures, and putting them in desperate fear of being  
8         separated from their families and communities via deportation; and

9     **WHEREAS**, Ending the DACA program is cold-hearted, shortsighted,  
10         and cruel, because it targets young people who are here in the  
11         United States through no fault of their own and will stifle their  
12         opportunity for a better shot at success and a chance to participate  
13         in America's economy and society; and

14    **WHEREAS**, It is therefore critical that the United States Congress take  
15         immediate action to enact legislation to codify the provisions of the  
16         DACA program so that the Dreamers may continue their pursuit of  
17         a better future for themselves, and through their efforts and  
18         achievements, a better future for this country; now, therefore,

19

20         **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey*:

21

22         1. This House urges the Congress of the United States to enact  
23         legislation to codify the provisions of the Deferred Action for  
24         Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to protect the young people of  
25         this country who have taken advantage of that program to pursue a  
26         better future and, through their efforts and achievements, the future  
27         of this country.

28

29         2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
30         shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President  
31         of the United States, to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the  
32         United States Senate, to the Speaker and Minority Leader of the  
33         United States House of Representatives, and to every member of  
34         Congress elected from this State.