

Why the Deferred
Action for Childhood
Arrival (DACA)
Program should
continue and be
expanded.



What is DACA?

DACA was designed to provide (i) the right to work and (ii) documentation to pay taxes and register for other state benefits to adult children of immigrants who were brought to the US as minors and had no chance of obtaining those benefits otherwise.



Continuation and expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program by the United States government is essential from

Humanitarian and Economics perspectives



On Humanitarian Reasons:

The United States has a moral obligation to continue to support these 'Dreamers', who are Americans in all but name. They deserve the benefits of access to jobs, and other resources provided to US citizens.





America was created on a dream

Reinforced by Emma Lazaru's words inscribed on the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.."





The Statue of Liberty has been a symbol of liberty and freedom for immigrants, and a reminder for generations of immigrants of America's long tradition as a safe haven for the poor and the persecuted





These young adults were brought to U.S, as children by their parents through no fault of their own. After living here for the majority of their lives, they consider the United States to be their only home and sending them to their country of origin that they are not familiar with would be immoral and unjust.



Making DACA permanent can reduce constant fear and anxiety among the youth and their families. It would affirm and legitimize their statuses in the United States without being in constant fear of getting deported.



Can you imagine living in fear thinking that ICE is going to knock on your door at any moment to deport you and send you to a country that you no longer identify as your own?

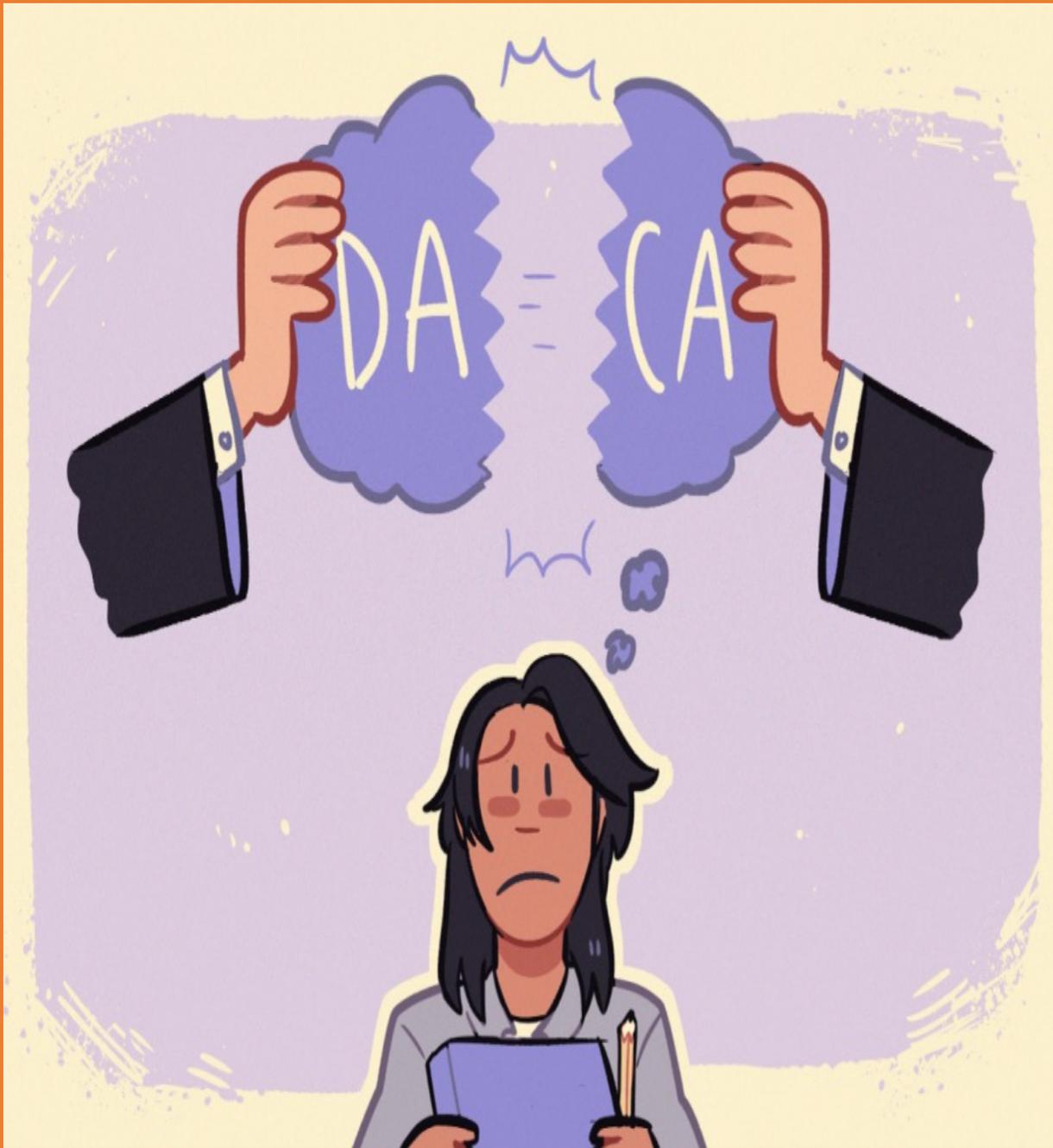


America's economy flourishes because of the contribution of many immigrants including DACA recipients. Therefore, a permanent status will be ideal for our economy.



The United States has a duty to its own economy to make sure its workers are in a position where they can demand fair pay and decent working conditions without fearing that they will lose their jobs or even be deported for speaking up these right are fundamental to American values and what we see as the American way of life.





In 2017, the Trump Administration filed lawsuits to end the DACA program on the basis that it was not legalized by President Obama when he passed his executive order that protected DACA



Following many lawsuits, on June 18, 2020, The Supreme Court ruled that the Trump administration could not immediately proceed with its plan to end DACA program. [nytimes.com]



According to the New York Times, In response to the president Trump decision to end DACA, many prominent business leaders wrote a letter in support of DACA

The letter went on to say that “their work and commitment to our companies, their families and communities are critical to our nation’s strength, especially since there are tens of thousands of DACA recipients working as front line doctors and nurses and in other critical industries fighting Covid-19.” (nytimes.com)



Access to legal employment not only helps Dreamers, it also provides a boost to the economy as it expands the tax base.

Financial Services Company
Moody's Analytics predicts that DACA members will bring \$105 billion in economic output in 2022.

DACA recipients are also more likely to start their own businesses.

5% of the DACA recipients surveyed launched their own enterprises, compared with 3.1% of all Americans. Start-ups and young firms are big job generators and more likely to come up with productivity-enhancing innovations



However, Dreamers are more than economic boosters. Immigration policy must consider the implications on the families of DACA recipients. The law often forgets that the recipients are human beings with hopes and fears.



Conclusion

To summarize, I restate that the United States has a moral obligation to continue to support the 'Dreamers.' We have a duty as a country to provide a fair pay and decent working conditions to the 'Dreamers' in addition to freeing them from living under constant fear of being deported. It is our legal responsibility as a nation to legitimize the service of these immigrants by creating a stable and transparent system.



Thank you for your time. I hope that the information I provided for you today will help you reflect on the importance of the continuation of the DACA program and also inspire to conduct research on this topic.



MEMORABLE CLOSE

I invite you to visit the link below in efforts with La Guardia Community College Humanitarian Initiative and request that you donate and support a DACA student. Every penny counts. Thank you.

<https://tinyurl.com/donate-LHI-MTR>

