7 MYTHS ABOUT THE DACA PROGRAM TRUMP IS THREATENING TO END

The Trump administration announced on September 5th that it will kill the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program, which had been put in place to protect Dreamers, undocumented immigrant youth who were brought to the US as children. **By ending DACA, 800,000 Dreamers are at risk of deportation.**

As with many complicated issues, people have lots of misconceptions about DACA and Dreamers. **Below, we bust seven common myths.**

MYTH #1

DACA RECIPIENTS ARE STEALING SCHOLARSHIP AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FROM AMERICAN CITIZENS.

The United States has record high **6 million jobs unfilled**, mostly due to a shortage of qualified workers. If DACA recipients can no longer work legally, experts say the **shortage of workers** will worsen. And unlike American citizens, DACA recipients are **not eligible for federal financial aid** for college and have to look for loans, grants, and scholarships elsewhere.

MYTH #2

DACA IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

DACA was introduced by President Barack Obama through an executive order. Executive orders are issued by presidents (all presidents use them) and have the full force of law, based on the Constitution. The Executive Order around DACA only offered temporary protection to Dreamers. In order to provide a path to citizenship, Congress needs to pass the Dream Act, a piece of legislation supported by both parties.

MYTH #3

DACA PROVIDED FULL CITIZENSHIP TO THE RECIPIENTS.

DACA did not provide citizenship, a path to citizenship, or permanent security to Dreamers. Instead, it protected them from deportation and allowed them to get a driver's license, go to school, and work legally for a two-year period before they could reapply. DACA benefits could also be rescinded at any point.

MYTH #4

DACA RECIPIENTS ARE DANGEROUS CRIMINALS.

In order to qualify for DACA, Dreamers must have proven a clean criminal record. Anyone applicant with a criminal record was disqualified. Once protected by the program, there is **no evidence** that DACA holders are likelier to commit crimes than US citizens. In fact, a **study** published in the American Sociological Review confirmed that immigration is strongly associated with less violence in a neighborhood.

MYTH #5

DREAMERS DON'T INTEGRATE INTO SOCIETY.

The average **DACA recipient arrived in the US at age 6**. They learn English, go to school, and make friends just like any other American kid. Most Dreamers are high-achieving: According to the **Center for American Progress**, about 90% of DACA recipients have jobs, 80% have a driver's license, and 72% are enrolled in higher education.

MYTH #6

DREAMERS ARE A DRAIN ON OUR ECONOMY, AND IT'S UNFAIR TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

DACA recipients have paid about $2 billion in state and local taxes, the **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy** estimates. According to Center for American Progress, ending DACA would remove **$460 billion over the next decade** and an estimated 685,000 workers from the nation's economy.

MYTH #7

DREAMERS SHOULD GO BACK TO WHERE THEY CAME FROM.

Most DACA recipients arrived here as kids. For many of the 800,000 Dreamers, the United States of America is the only real home they have ever known. Deporting these Dreamers could mean sending them back to a country they don't remember, one where they don't know anyone and don't speak the language.

JOIN 88,000 YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE STEPPING UP TO DEFEND DREAMERS.

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