

COALITION *for the*
AMERICAN DREAM

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Top Business Coalition Applauds Bipartisan Effort by Senators Graham & Durbin to Protect Dreamers

Once Again Urges Congress to Pass a Permanent Legislative Solution This Year

WASHINGTON D.C. – The Coalition for the American Dream, which represents many of the nation’s top businesses, trade associations and other organizations, today applauded U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) for introducing a permanent bipartisan legislative solution to protect Dreamers.

The two Senators this week reintroduced the bipartisan Dream Act, which would allow immigrant students who grew up in the United States to earn lawful permanent residence and eventually American citizenship if they meet certain educational or military requirements, successfully pass a background check, and remain in good legal standing.

In a statement released today, the Coalition said, “The reintroduction of the bipartisan Dream Act by Senators Graham and Durbin reflects the broad support for Dreamers in Congress and across the country. It is exactly the type of bipartisan effort needed to pass long lasting legislation. We applaud the cosponsors and supporters of this bill for reaching across the political divide and putting every day Americans and their concerns above partisan one-upsmanship. Poll after poll has shown that overwhelming majorities in both political parties support Dreamers and recognize the need for action by Congress.

“There are many aspects of our immigration system that need reform and on which there are divergent points of view, but protecting Dreamers is one area where there is broad, bipartisan support. These young people are important to the future of our companies and our economy, and job creators across the country are counting on Congress to pass bipartisan, permanent legislative protections for them this year.”

Last month, the Coalition [sent a letter](#) to House and Senate leaders in both parties urging action on Dreamers this year and published it as a [full-page ad in the New York Times](#). Among those who signed it were the CEO’s for some of the country’s biggest companies include Walmart, General Motors, Amazon, IBM, Marriott, Coca-Cola, Apple, Johnson & Johnson, Facebook, Target, Microsoft, Best Buy, Verizon, Google and many others. Additional signatories were the chief executives of some of the country’s biggest trade associations that collectively represent thousands of American businesses, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, National Retail Federation, National Association of Manufacturers and the American Hotel & Lodging Association.

Background:

- Dreamers directly contribute to the success of numerous U.S. companies. At least 72 percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies employ Dreamers—including IBM, Walmart, Apple, General Motors, Amazon, JPMorgan Chase, Home Depot, Wells Fargo, among others. Those companies alone generate almost \$3 trillion in annual revenue.
- Oftentimes, these young men and women are filling vacancies at companies that cannot find enough workers for vacant positions. And Dreamers' wages lead to higher tax revenues and expansion of our national GDP—producing new jobs for all Americans.
- Failing to address this issue and removing over 800,000 Dreamers from the workforce virtually overnight would inflict serious harm on U.S. companies, all workers, and the American economy as a whole. In fact, studies show that our economy could [lose](#) \$350 billion in GDP, and the federal government could lose \$90 billion in tax revenue.

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