



FACT SHEET ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO IMMIGRATION POLICY

.....



PROPOSED POLICY CHANGES REGARDING YOUTH/THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR DACA

➤ DREAM Act of 2017

- S. 1615 - Lead sponsors: Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC);
- H.R. 3440 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA);
- Creates 13 year path to citizenship for those who came into the country as minors and meet proposed requirements;
- Impact on South Asian Community: Would allow South Asians who entered the United States in their youth to eventually become citizens and help their parents become citizens as well.

➤ BRIDGE Act

- S. 128 – Lead sponsor: Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC);
- H.R. 496 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Mike Coffman (R-CO);
- Simply turns the existing DACA program into law
- Does not include path to citizenship
- Effect on South Asian Community: Would at least allow South Asian youth currently covered by DACA to remain conditionally in the United States

➤ The American Hope Act of 2017

- H.R. 3951 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)
- Allows states to provide financial assistance for higher education to young adults who are not citizens
- Effect on South Asian Community: Would help South Asian youth attend American universities, regardless of their immigration status.

➤ Recognizing America's Children Act

- H.R. 1468 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL)
- Grants five -year conditional permanent resident status to individuals who meet the following requirements:
 - They must have been in the country since 2012 and at that time have been under the age of 16
 - If they are over the age of 18, they must have completed a high school diploma or equivalent, and must be either enrolled in higher education, the military, or have a valid workplace
 - They must also be considered of good moral character.
- This status can be renewed and serve as a path to naturalization
- Effect on South Asian Community: This bill is aimed at those who are already eligible for DACA, and would help those who meet these requirements to remain in the United States.

COMPARISON OF NEW POLICIES PROPOSED TO REPLACE DACA

.....

| | 2017 Dream Act of 2017 | BRIDGE Act | American Hope Act of 2017 | Recognizing America's Children Act |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Potential Beneficiaries | 3.3 million | 740,000+ (those that currently benefit from DACA) | 8 million | 2.5 million |
| Age of Arrival | Before 18 | Before 16 | Before 18 | Before 16 |
| Continuous and Physical Presence in the United States | Continuously lived: 4+ years | Continuously lived: since June 15, 2007 Physical presence: June 15, 2012 | Physical presence: December 31, 2016 | Continuously lived: January 1, 2012 Physical presence: January 1, 2012 |
| Education, Work and Military Service Requirements | High School Diploma/GED Military: 2+ years of service | High School Diploma/GED Military: Veteran Status | Does not include any such requirements | High School Diploma/GED Work: Valid Work Authorization Military: 3+ years of service |
| Length of Conditional Legal Status | 8 years | 3 years | 8 years | 10 years |

PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS OTHER/HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

.....

- **Protect and Grow American Jobs Act**
 - H.R. 170 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Darrell Issa (D-CA);
 - Alters requirements for the H-1B visa status;
 - Requires employers to provide greater documentation of attempts made to recruit American born workers;
 - Employers must prove that in their hiring of foreign-born workers they are not displacing any citizen workers;
 - Raises salary threshold for those who are H-1B exempt;
 - Effect on South Asian Community: This would make it significantly more difficult to hire high-skilled workers from South Asian countries.
- **High Skilled Integrity and Fairness Act of 2017**
 - H.R. 670 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA);
 - Eliminates the per-country caps for employment based visas;
 - Increases the per-country caps for family sponsored visas from 7 to 15 percent;
 - Reforms the process in which students attain visas, allowing them to emigrate even if they might eventually want permanent residence;
 - Raises the salary threshold for those who are H-1B exempt;
 - Effect on South Asian Community: This would significantly impact the South Asian community, as it would allow for more visas to be obtained from each country, and from a wider range of individuals.
- **American Families United Act**
 - H.R. 1036 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke (D-TX);
 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act;
 - Grants the right of due process to American citizens and others with legal status in the United States who have spouses or family members that have minor immigration legislation violation offenses;
 - Allows families who have been affected by harsh punishment for minor offenses to get their cases heard and hopefully reunite;
 - Effect on South Asian Community: This would help reunite families who have been separated because of varying immigration statuses.





PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS GENERAL/HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

- **RAISE Act**
 - S. 354 – Lead sponsor: Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR);
 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act;
 - Creates a “merit-based” point system (with rewards for attributes such as English language proficiency and educational attainments) where only those with the highest points could be admitted;
 - This is an anti-immigration policy with a goal of cutting legal immigration in half and separating families;
 - Effect on the South Asian Community: Does not allow employers to select the foreign workers they would hire, but instead forces them to choose from those who with the highest points based on a new “merit-based” point system. It also prohibits American citizens from sponsoring family members such as adult children and siblings.
- **Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act of 2017**
 - H.R. 392 – Lead sponsor: Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT);
 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act;
 - Changes the green card approval process by eliminating the country cap system. Individuals would be based on the order that they apply in, not based on how many slots are still open for their country;
 - Effect on the South Asian Community: This would significantly impact India in particular, as previously they were allotted the same number of slots as smaller countries, meaning that applicants from India would have to wait longer to receive approval. But, this only impacts immigrants who are applying in the category of “high-skilled.”
- **Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act**
 - H.R. 3697 - Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA);
 - Restricts the access of international gang members to the United States by denying asylum to unaccompanied minors who are attempting to flee these gangs in their home countries;
 - Effect on the South Asian Community: This affects members of the South Asian community as it redefines “gang” to any organization deemed threatening, including some religious organizations and political groups.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT AFFECTS GENERAL/HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS

.....

- **Reuniting Families Act of 2017**
 - To be introduced in the next Congressional Session – Lead sponsor: Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA);
 - Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act;
 - Changes requirements for who can sponsor an individual to become a resident of the United States by changing the definitions of ‘immediate relative’ and ‘permanent partner’;
 - Increases number of visas available for those who are the sons and daughters of permanent resident aliens by 80,640 people and the percentage of those who are able to come through sponsorship;
 - Allows families who have been separated due to immigration status to reunite;
 - Effect on South Asian Community: Would allow a greater number of South Asian immigrants to have children or spouses join them in the United States.

Prepared by: Mira Scarnecchia

For more information:

Please visit our website: www.saalt.org

Contact us: info@saalt.org

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/talktosaalt

Follow us on Twitter: [@SAALTweets](https://twitter.com/SAALTweets)

