

House Resolution 18 - Introduced

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY GAINES

1 A Resolution urging Iowa's congressional delegation to
2 support and the United States Congress to pass the
3 American Dream and Promise Act of 2019.

4 WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012, the United States
5 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that
6 it would not deport certain undocumented youth who
7 came to the United States as children and granted them
8 "deferred action"; and

9 WHEREAS, according to the United States Citizenship
10 and Immigration Services, 5,454 Iowans applied for this
11 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program
12 since its introduction and 3,100 Iowans received work
13 authorization and protection from deportation through
14 the DACA program; and

15 WHEREAS, studies show that DACA recipients have
16 made and continue to make significant, positive
17 contributions to their communities and economies by
18 increasing tax revenue for states and localities,
19 starting their own businesses, earning higher wages,
20 participating more fully in the workforce, and pursuing
21 educational opportunities that they previously could
22 not access; and

23 WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017, the current
24 presidential administration announced plans to phase
25 out DACA, but implementation was put on hold to allow
26 Congress time to pass the Development, Relief, and
27 Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act or some other
28 legislative protection, however, Congress failed to act

1 and the time extension expired on March 5, 2018; and

2 WHEREAS, several courts have blocked the plan to
3 phase out the DACA program and have ordered United
4 States Citizenship and Immigration Services to continue
5 accepting and processing renewal applications; and

6 WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a
7 temporary status granted by the government that allows
8 a person to live and work in the United States and is
9 given to eligible nationals of designated countries
10 afflicted by natural disasters, war, or other dangerous
11 conditions; and

12 WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, TPS
13 currently protects approximately 320,000 people in the
14 United States from 10 countries who would otherwise be
15 deported to areas suffering from disease, violence,
16 starvation, the aftermath of natural disasters, and
17 other life-threatening conditions; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the Pew Research Center, the
19 largest group of TPS recipients is from El Salvador
20 (195,000 people), followed by Honduras (57,000 people)
21 and Haiti (50,000 people); and

22 WHEREAS, most TPS holders in Iowa are from El
23 Salvador and Honduras and they, and their families,
24 have been significant, contributing members of
25 their communities and local economies for nearly 20
26 years; and

27 WHEREAS, according to the Immigrant Legal Resource
28 Center, ending TPS will devastate the United States
29 economy as deporting TPS recipients from El Salvador,
30 Honduras, and Haiti would cost taxpayers over \$3

1 billion. Over a decade, the inability of these
2 individuals to work would result in over \$45 billion
3 in lost gross domestic product and \$6.9 billion in
4 lost Social Security and Medicare contributions.
5 Moreover, employers would incur close to \$1 billion in
6 turnover costs for the wholesale termination of TPS
7 recipients; and

8 WHEREAS, terminating TPS before countries are
9 sufficiently recovered will have a profoundly
10 destabilizing effect which will be felt in countries
11 in need, by their neighbors, and at the United States
12 borders, as more people flee their countries to save
13 their lives and the lives of their families; and

14 WHEREAS, the Department of Homeland Security has
15 already denied extension of TPS status to several
16 countries, which means that current recipients will
17 lose their ability to work legally in the United States
18 and will be at risk of being deported back to dangerous
19 conditions in their home countries; and

20 WHEREAS, TPS recipients have filed a class-action
21 lawsuit, which has blocked the termination for Sudan,
22 Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Haiti, but has left many
23 TPS recipients from other countries in a state of fear
24 and confusion; and,

25 WHEREAS, on March 12, 2019, Representative Lucille
26 Roybal-Allard introduced the American Dream and
27 Promise Act of 2019 in the United States House of
28 Representatives, which would provide DACA and TPS
29 recipients, along with other immigrants residing in the
30 United States, with protection from deportation and an

1 opportunity to obtain permanent legal status in the
2 United States if they meet certain requirements; and

3 WHEREAS, according to the National Immigration
4 Forum, the American Dream and Promise Act would allow
5 nearly 700,000 DACA recipients, as well as another
6 1.6 million eligible immigrants brought to America as
7 children, and over 300,000 TPS recipients, to stay in
8 the United States; NOW THEREFORE,

9 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That
10 the House of Representatives respectfully requests that
11 Iowa's congressional delegation support and the United
12 States Congress pass the American Dream and Promise Act
13 of 2019; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
15 Resolution be transmitted to Majority Leader of the
16 United States Senate Mitchell McConnell, Jr., Speaker
17 of the United States House of Representatives Nancy
18 Pelosi, and to each member of Iowa's congressional
19 delegation.