

# Little Dreamers Amendment

## What is at stake?

Children of immigrants comprise one quarter of the U.S. child population, and will make up a critical segment of our future workforce. While the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S.744) is a historic step in the right direction for young immigrants, under the bill some of our most vulnerable children would be required to wait more than a decade before they are eligible for citizenship.

The DREAM Act in S.744 provides a 5-year path to citizenship for youth who entered the U.S. prior to age 16, have graduated from high school or earned a GED, and earned a college diploma, attended two years of college, or spent four years in the military. However, the bill does not allow those who entered the U.S. as children but are too young to have graduated from high school or completed a GED to qualify for the 5-year path to citizenship under the DREAM Act. Instead, these children are required to follow the standard adult path to citizenship, which could mean up to a 13-year wait for the youngest children.



## What does the amendment do?

The Little Dreamers amendment, sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), would ensure that young children are not excluded from the DREAM Act's pathway to citizenship simply because of their age. Specifically, the Little Dreamers amendment would allow children who meet requirements of the DREAM Act and are under the age of 18 upon completing five years of registered provisional status to be eligible to adjust to lawfully permanent resident status and be immediately eligible for citizenship.

Ultimately, allowing our youngest Dreamers to also have access to a 5-year path to citizenship under the DREAM Act will ensure that every child in America has the opportunity to achieve his or her dreams and give back to the country they call home. It's not only the right thing to do for children, it's the right thing to do for our country.

**The Little Dreamers amendment is supported by the First Focus Campaign for Children, United We Dream, and the National Education Association, as well as a coalition of over 180 child advocacy, faith-based, education, labor, and immigrant rights groups, including:**

Action for Children North Carolina  
Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Advocates for Children of New Jersey  
AFL-CIO  
African American Ministers In Action  
African American Ministers Leadership Council  
Alliance for a Just Society  
Alliance for Children & Families

America's Voice Education Fund  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE.org)  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
American School Counselor Association  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice, formerly Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)  
Apostle Immigrant Service  
Arab American Institute  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families  
Arkansas Coalition for Peace and Justice  
Arkansas Interfaith Alliance  
Arkansas voices for the Children Left Behind  
Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Chicago  
Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice  
ASPIRA Association, Inc.  
BioLogistics, LLC  
Breakthrough  
Bring Rodrigo Home  
Campaign for Community Change  
Capuchin Justice & Peace Office, Milwaukee  
CASA de Maryland  
Center for Gender & Refugee Studies  
Center for Latino Progress - CPRF  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Public Policy Priorities  
Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers  
Children's Alliance, Washington  
Children's Defense Fund  
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland  
Christ Our Redeemer AME Church (DC)  
Church World Service  
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Collaborative Center for Justice  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Community Action Partnership  
Community Works  
Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment (CEASE)  
Congregation of St. Joseph  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Crossing Borders-Dubuque  
CT Students for a DREAM  
DEW Consultants, Inc.

Dominican Sisters of Houston  
Education Equals Making Community Connections  
El Zócalo Immigrant Resource Center  
Entre Hermanos  
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)  
Faith Action Network  
Family Voices of NJ  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus Campaign for Children  
For Families LLC  
Fortín de las Flores  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscans for Justice  
Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona  
Humanitarian Border Solutions  
Humanitarian Border Solutions, Bisbee, AZ  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)  
Jefferson County Child Development Council  
Jesuit Conference of the United States  
Junta for Progressive Action  
Justice not Jail  
Kids In Need of Defense (KIND)  
Korean Resource Center  
La Plaza, Indianapolis  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)  
Latin America/Caribbean Committee of the Loretto Community  
Latin American Youth Center  
Latino Education & Training Institute  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Leadership Team of the Sisters of St Francis, Dubuque, Iowa  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Litchfield Public Schools Early Childhood Programs  
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service  
Main Street Alliance  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
MICAH  
Micah Leadership Council  
MomsRising.org  
Multilingual Chicago  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth  
National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Education Association (NEA)  
National Employment Law Project  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latino Children's Institute  
National Primitive Baptist Convention, USA  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
New Mexico Voices for Children  
New York Immigration Coalition  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth  
OneAmerica  
Pathfinders of Oregon  
PB&J Family Services, Inc.  
PeterCares House  
PFAW  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
Princeton Community Village  
Progressive National Baptist Convention, Inc.  
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator  
PSR, Arizona  
Public Advocates  
Real Life Resource Center, Inc.  
Religious for Immigration Reform  
Religious Sisters of Charity  
Samaritans  
SCLC Florida  
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community  
Sisters of the Presentation, New Windsor  
Social Action Committee of St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, Tucson AZ  
Social Justice Council of Unitarian Universalist Church in Meriden  
Srs. of St. Joseph of Carondelet  
St. John's UMC  
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network  
Templeton Knolls Civic Assn.  
TESOL International Association  
32BJ Local Union  
The Bridge Project  
The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families  
The Florence Immigrant & Refugee Rights Project  
The Imani Group (AAMIA)  
The National Association for Bilingual Education  
The Osborne Association  
The Prince of Peace Baptist Church  
The Restoration Project at Casa Mariposa  
Tucson Samaritans

United Action Connecticut  
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries  
United Church of Peace  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United We Dream  
University of Arizona Immigration Support Services Project  
Voces de la Frontera  
Voices for Utah Children  
Voices for Virginia's Children  
WI Council on Children and Families  
Wider Opportunities for Women  
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Workers' Rights Center, Wisconsin  
World Education, Inc.  
ZERO TO THREE