

**SRG Statement #1 on Dream Act Markup –**  
**focus: LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND**  
**IMPACT ON SOCIETY AND ECONOMY**

Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

→ This <sup>has been a great part of</sup> ~~is~~ my life's work. My career in public service has been dedicated to helping immigrants who came to the United States in search of a prosperous and dignified life. I have followed the history of this legislation very closely, though I was physically far in Texas. Today I am honored to participate in this historic markup.

→ <sup>since when</sup> ~~In~~ 2001, the DREAM Act was first conceived <sup>Dreamers</sup> ~~many~~ have <sup>wished</sup> during the ~~107th Congress~~. As we all know, as it is part of the reason why we are here today, those early conceptions of the bill never did become law, though passed the House in 2010 with bipartisan support.

→ In 2012, <sup>DACA</sup> ~~the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals~~ was born out of an exercise of prosecutorial discretion. DACA enabled more ~~then 800 million~~ eligible young adults to work lawfully, attend school, and contribute to the

→ U.S. without the constant threat of deportation. DACA, however, does not provide a path to citizenship, ~~it must be renewed every 2 years,~~ and it leaves out a huge number of deserving Dreamers.

→ If brought to the attention of DHS, Dreamers can be deported to countries that they may not remember or know at all, countries which they have little or no personal connection. And because of their undocumented status, most Dreamers have never left the U.S., never even having the opportunity to get to know their places of origin, and never knowing any other place to call home other than the American communities in which they grew up.

→ Having spent their formative years and young adult lives in the U.S., some don't even know another language other than English. Their removals can have far reaching impacts, affecting classmates, teachers, clergy, and friends who have watched them grow up.

I wonder if immigration hardliners ever realize that employers of Dreamers would also be

affected from mass deportation, as they would lose key members of their workforce, potentially ruining small and mid-size businesses in all of our districts.

→ In light of these compelling factors, our current immigration system STILL provides no means for Dreamers, who are *de facto* Americans, to regularize their immigration status.

*It bears repeating —*

→ **Dreamers are American in every way except on paper.** And the same can be said for TPS holders, who have been in this country for decades, becoming business owners, employers, employees, home-owners, and real contributors to the American economy and integral to the fiber of American society.

*in their hearts,  
in their minds,  
in their souls,  
they are  
Americans*

There are tens of thousands of Dreamers in my district.

There are 19 thousand 700 hundred Dreamers and 5 thousand 200 hundred TPS holders in Texas-29.

*19,700*

*5,200*

→ Those households contribute an annual estimate of over 120 million dollars in federal taxes, over 77 million dollars in state and local taxes, and have the spending power of almost 622 million dollars.

→ If my district were to lose its Dreamers, it would lose 400 million dollars in gross domestic product.

DACA recipients, TPS holders, and DED beneficiaries are long time residents who call the United States home.

The average TPS holder has been here for 22 years, and the average DACA recipient came to the U.S. at age 6.

→ Dreamers, TPS holders, and DED recipients are part of mixed status families, and have hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizen and legal resident parents, children, and other relatives. Forced deportation of these individuals and loved ones would create another massive family separation crisis and we cannot let this happen.

→ We can change the lives of hundreds of thousands of Texans and U.S. residents who are Americans in their hearts and have only known this country as their home.

They're our neighbors, friends, and colleagues, and we have an obligation to create a pathway to citizenship for them. By passing this legislation, we can open the door of opportunity and give 2 million people a chance to fulfill the promise of the American Dream.

I urges passage of this bill.

my colleagues to vote  
in favor of

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

MEMORANDUM

~~Border is not in complete~~  
~~utter disaster~~

~~not amnesty~~

I wish to add my name to list of members who disagree w/ the use of "illegal alien" for the following reasons:

1. deeply held religious belief
2. we are all God's children
3. welcome the stranger
4. dignity & respect.

(4) ~~Illegal~~ is not a noun  
Human beings are not  
Illegal.  
Aliens are from Mars.