



# STUDY: THE IMPACT OF DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM REPEAL ON JOBS

## A TIMELINE OF THE DEVASTATING AND FAR-REACHING JOB LOSS CONSEQUENCES IF CONGRESS FAILS TO PROTECT DREAMERS

*Developed by FWD.us*

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### SUMMARY

Earlier this year, FWD.us issued a report outlining the devastating consequences of a potential repeal of the DACA program, specifically outlining the dramatic and immediate job losses. Since that time, President Trump repealed DACA, urging Congress to pass a legislative fix by March 5th. Although some 22,000 individuals will already have lost DACA by that date, March 6th is when the number of DACA recipients losing work authorizations and protection from deportation will take a sharp and dramatic upturn.

The following report further details the escalating job losses that will occur beginning on March 6th and continuing for two years until all of the nearly 800,000 DACA recipients are prevented from participating in the workforce and subject to deportation. Specifically, this report looks at the job loss impact between March 6th and November 6th, the first 9 months when DACA recipients will be barred from renewals. The findings reinforce the devastating consequences a repeal would inflict on DACA recipients and their families, as well as the dire, far-reaching consequences to communities across the country, to employers, and to the American economy across all regions and sectors. **This report specifically finds that a total of nearly 300,000 DACA recipients, 1,700 per business day, will be removed from the workforce between March 6th and November 6th.** In total, nearly 700,000 individuals who are currently employed and contributing as a

productive part of the American workforce would be stripped of their ability to work and could be fired over the course of the next two years.<sup>1,2</sup>

Since the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was established in 2012, nearly 800,000 young people who came to this country as children have been granted temporary protection from deportation and allowed to live, work, and contribute to the only country most of them have ever known (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2017). Over the past five years, 91% of DACA recipients have found gainful employment, and are currently working for companies across the country (Wong, T., et al., (2017)).

## **BACKGROUND**

Five years ago, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memo establishing the DACA program (Department of Homeland Security, 2012). DHS delineated a set of criteria by which “certain young people who were brought to the United States as young children, do not present a risk to national security or public safety, and meet several key criteria” would be able to receive a temporary protection from deportation, for a period of two years, and be eligible to apply for work authorization. Individuals who are eligible are required to complete an application process and undergo a thorough background check, including fingerprinting, and are required to renew their deferred action every two years. Further, the DHS Secretary issued a memo directing the heads of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to establish a process to implement this exercise of prosecutorial discretion across their agencies to ensure that “enforcement resources are not expended on these low priority cases but are instead appropriately focused on people who meet our enforcement priorities” (Department of Homeland Security, 2012).

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<sup>1</sup> See Fig. 1. Benefit Expiration with Loss of Work Authorization & Subject to Deportation and Forced Job Loss Chart

<sup>2</sup> The analysis of DACA job losses are an estimate based on the latest quarterly DACA approvals and renewals provided by DHS. This data may include a small number of individuals who transitioned status based on factors outside of DACA, or for other reasons no longer are current DACA recipients, and therefore would not be impacted by the repeal of DACA.

Despite the positive economic benefits of the program<sup>3,4</sup> and overwhelming public support for DACA recipients<sup>5</sup>, President Trump made the decision to terminate the program on September 5th. By announcing that no further renewals would be permitted for any person whose DACA protection expires on March 6 or later, the Administration set in motion the elimination of work permits for all DACA recipients and subjected these young people to the threat of immediate deportation, putting their safety, livelihoods, and wellbeing risk. Additionally, about 22,000 DACA recipients who have deferrals that expire before March 5th were unable to meet the renewal deadline and will be forced from their jobs and subject to deportation before March 5th.

DACA recipients are upstanding members of our communities, and everyone in the program has gone through an application process, passed one or more extensive background checks including fingerprinting, paid the required fee, and is a student, or servicemember, or holds a job. DACA recipients are required to renew their deferral every two years in order to maintain their work authorization and their protection from deportation, and to show that they have continued to meet the program requirements. An estimated 200,000 DACA recipients have had their Deferred Action renewed by President Trump since he took office in January.<sup>6</sup>

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A REPEAL

### DACA Recipients With Job Forced Job Loss Chart

Quarter	Months	Total DACA Expirations Per Quarter	Estiamted DACA Job Losses (91 percent employed)	Estimated DACA Recipient Job Loss Per Month	Estimated DACA Recipient Job Loss Per Business Week	Estimated DACA Recipient Job Loss Per Business Day	Estimated DACA Recipient Job Loss Per Business Hour	Estimated DACA Recipient Job Loss Per Business Minute	Every XXX seconds, a DACA recipient loses their job?
Q1 2018	Oct-Dec	90,299	82,172	27,391	6,735	1,347	168	2.8	21.4
Q2 2018	Jan-Mar	115,380	104,996	34,999	8,467	1,693	212	3.5	17.0
Q3 2018	Apr-Jun	86,165	78,410	26,137	6,126	1,225	153	2.6	23.5
Q4 2018	July-Sept	152,429	138,710	46,237	11,009	2,202	275	4.6	13.1
Q1 2019	Oct-Dec	120,287	109,461	36,487	8,828	1,766	221	3.7	16.3
Q2 2019	Jan-Mar	36,427	33,149	11,050	2,717	543	68	1.1	53.0
Quarterly average		↓100,165	↓91,150	↓30,383	↓7,331	↓1,466	↓183	↓3.1	↓19.6
Period March 6 - November 6			↓293,434		↓8,580	↓1,716	↓214	↓3.6	↓16.8

<sup>3</sup><https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/07/21/436419/new-threat-daca-cost-states-billions-dollars/>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.cato.org/blog/economic-budgetary-cost-repealing-daca-state-level>

<sup>5</sup>[https://morningconsult.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170409\\_crosstabs Politico v1 AG-2.pdf](https://morningconsult.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/170409_crosstabs Politico v1 AG-2.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> Estimate based on average monthly renewals during first quarter of the Trump Administration, expanded to include estimated 2nd quarter renewals.

*Fig. 1. Benefit Expiration with Loss of Work Authorization & Subject to Deportation and Forced Job Loss Chart*

New research has further detailed the dramatic consequences to U.S. employers if DACA is repealed and renewals are put on hold, even for a brief period of time. The chart above outlines the chronological job loss consequences of repealing DACA, resulting in the potential for an average of 8,500 DACA recipients to lose their jobs each businessweek. Furthermore, for every business day that DACA renewals are put on hold, an average of more than 1,700 individuals can be fired from their jobs. And because DACA recipients live in all fifty states and the District of Columbia (U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, 2017), the economic consequences will be felt all across the country.

**REPEALING DACA MEANS THAT  
BETWEEN MARCH 6TH - NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018  
NEARLY  
300,000  
JOBS WILL BE LOST.**

For the purposes of this study, the number of jobs lost is reflective of the number of DACA recipients who would lose work authorization if they are unable to renew their DACA. While individual job loss will be determined on a case by case basis, individuals who are unable to renew their DACA and therefore fall out of DACA protection will be unable to legally work in the United States.

**This data further shows that job loss resulting directly from the repeal of DACA will dramatically increase on March 6th, and will continue over the course of the next 2 years until all employed DACA recipients, nearly 700,000 individuals, are removed from the work force, and all nearly 800,000 are subject to deportation. This study finds that in the first business day that DACA recipients are barred from renewing their DACA, 1,693 Dreamers will be forced out of their jobs and subject to deportation. Firings will increase over the summer, when more than 11,000 individuals can be fired each week, a total of nearly 140,000 total individuals fired during that quarter. During the 3rd quarter of 2018, a DACA recipient may be fired from their job every 13 seconds.**

Overall, the consequences of congressional failure to provide a permanent legislative solution for DACA recipients will be that nearly 300,000 Dreamers will lose their jobs and be subject to deportation in the first nine months they are barred from renewals, between March 6th and November 6th. These Dreamers live in all 50 states, are working and paying taxes in our communities and contributing to our economies. Congress's failure to take action to protect Dreamers will have profound economic and political consequences.

## REPEALING DACA MEANS

**1,716\*** **JOBS  
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\* BETWEEN MARCH 6TH - NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018

Work authorizations issued to DACA recipients are no different than those issued through countless other visa categories, meaning many U.S. businesses may not even know whether they are employing a DACA recipient. Revoking the ability for current DACA recipients to renew their deferrals would force businesses into the impossible and extremely costly position of having to fire productive employees for no other reason than an arbitrary change in federal policy, potentially resulting in backlash from other employees, or their broader community. DACA recipients are already living openly in our communities. They are our coworkers, teachers, nurses and home health care workers, among many other professions. Repealing this program and forcing businesses around the country to fire hundreds of thousands of people within our communities will have a devastating impact. Further, such action by the federal government would place a staggering cost, both financially and in relationship to their employees, on businesses in nearly every sector of the economy, and, in turn, in the communities across the United States.

# EVERY BUSINESS WEEK DACA RENEWALS ARE HALTED, OVER 8,580\* JOBS ARE LOST.

\* BETWEEN MARCH 6TH - NOVEMBER 6TH, 2018

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Reporting by the Center for American Progress has found that nearly 91% of DACA recipients (Wong et al., 2017) are currently employed across the country, contributing billions of dollars to our communities, our economy, and in tax revenue. Removing DACA recipients from the workforce will cost \$460.3 billion in GDP loss over a decade (Svajlenka, Jawetz and Bautista-Chavez, 2017). It will cost employers \$3.4 billion in unnecessary turnover costs, and would cut contributions to Medicare and Social Security by \$39.3 billion over a decade (Magaña-Salgado, 2016; Magaña-Salgado and Wong, 2017). Moreover, DACA recipients have been important drivers of economic growth in their communities. Nearly 6% of DACA recipients have launched businesses, many employing American citizens (Wong et al., 2017). Further, almost 55% of DACA recipients purchased a vehicle, and more than one in ten have purchased their first home (Brannon and Albright, 2017).

## CONCLUSION

By every measure, DACA has been extraordinarily beneficial, allowing nearly 800,000 individuals in the United States to live, work legally, and contribute to the only country most of them have ever known. The economic benefits of this program are clear and profound, and the dire consequences of repeal would be devastating. As this report has outlined, Congressional failure to protect Dreamers will result in thousands of Dreamers losing their jobs in the first week that renewals are barred. Every day for nine months, from March 6th till November 6th, will result in more than 1,700 individuals losing their ability to work legally. In addition to the reprehensible moral consequences, ending DACA would place severe economic

**strain on businesses around the country, putting them into the impossible and extremely costly position of having to fire productive employees for no other reason than an arbitrary change in federal policy, potentially resulting in backlash from other employees, or their broader community.**

**DACA was never intended to provide permanent protection to Dreamers, but now that the administration has ended the program Congress must act urgently to ensure they aren't ripped out of their jobs and communities. Congress is considering a number of pieces of legislation to protect current DACA recipients statutorily, and we hope members of both parties will recognize the devastating consequences of inaction and pass legislation this year to protect Dreamers.**

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