



United States Senate

KAMALA D. HARRIS | U.S. Senator for California

## The American Dream Employment Act of 2019

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Senators Kamala D. Harris, Catherine Cortez Masto, & Dick Durbin

DREAMers are some of America's best and brightest. They contribute to our communities and our economy, yet they are shut out of serving lawmakers in the only country they've ever known. **The American Dream Employment Act** would lift the ban on DREAMers working or securing paid internships in congressional offices.

Under current law, paid employment in the House and Senate is limited to individuals who are either United States citizens or lawful permanent residents who have started the naturalization process (in certain circumstances, refugees and individuals granted asylum are also eligible for employment). As a result, DREAMers—undocumented young people brought to this country as children—are excluded from job opportunities in congressional offices.

Since the Obama administration implemented the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in 2012, hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients have been granted permits that allow them to work legally in the United States in order to support themselves and their families. But current law prevents DREAMers from pursuing a career shaping the laws in the country they love.

**The American Dream Employment Act** amends Sec. 704 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019 to finally let DACA recipients utilize their skills, talents, and unique perspectives that shape their communities.

Companion legislation was introduced in the House of Representatives by Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick (AZ-02).

The bill is supported by United We Dream, the largest immigrant youth-led organization in the country, as well as the Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), the Fair Immigration Reform Movement, FWD.us, the Immigration Hub, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, the National Immigration Law Center, and Unidos.