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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

DISCUSSION DRAFT

FOR THE COURTS, CORRECTIONS AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING THE LEGISLATURE'S SUPPORT OF DREAMERS AND REQUESTING  
WORK ON COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM.

WHEREAS, many immigrant parents bring their children to  
the United States to provide them with greater opportunities  
for access to the "American dream"; and

WHEREAS, the federal deferred action for childhood  
arrivals program was created by an executive order signed by  
President Barack Obama in August 2012; and

WHEREAS, the deferred action for childhood arrivals  
program gives certain immigrants who came to the United States  
before they were sixteen years old, known as "dreamers", a  
chance to stay in the United States to study or work, provided  
that those dreamers meet certain conditions; and

WHEREAS, nearly seven hundred ninety thousand young

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1 dreamers have received work permits and deportation relief  
2 through the federal deferred action for childhood arrivals  
3 program; and

4 WHEREAS, those approved for participation in the deferred  
5 action for childhood arrivals program are given a work permit  
6 and protection from deportation for two years, which permit and  
7 protection can be renewed; and

8 WHEREAS, the immigrant population in the United States is  
9 very diverse, including people from a range of backgrounds,  
10 ethnicities and nationalities. In 2015, forty-seven percent of  
11 immigrants to the United States reported their race as "white",  
12 twenty-seven percent as "Asian", nine percent as "black" and  
13 fifteen percent as another race; and

14 WHEREAS, according to the 2014 American community survey,  
15 seven and two-tenths percent of the twenty-two million  
16 undocumented immigrants in the United States were black; and

17 WHEREAS, among the top fifteen countries of origin of  
18 undocumented immigrants in the United States, a broad range of  
19 countries is represented, including Mexico, China, India,  
20 Canada and Haiti; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico is home to an estimated ten thousand  
22 immigrants who would qualify for participation in the deferred  
23 action for childhood arrivals program and nearly seven thousand  
24 dreamers. Regardless of their immigration status, those  
25 dreamers deserve equal protection under the law; and

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1           WHEREAS, the institute on taxation and economic policy  
2 reported that in 2010, undocumented immigrants in New Mexico  
3 paid eighty-six million seven hundred thousand dollars  
4 (\$86,700,000) in state and local taxes, including seventy-five  
5 million two hundred thousand dollars (\$75,200,000) in gross  
6 receipts taxes, three million three hundred thousand dollars  
7 (\$3,300,000) in state income taxes and eight million dollars  
8 (\$8,000,000) in property taxes; and

9           WHEREAS, the deferred action for childhood arrivals  
10 program is popular with the public and enjoys the support of  
11 employers, educators, community leaders and elected officials  
12 from across the political spectrum. According to a *Morning*  
13 *Consult* and *Politico* poll in April 2017, seventy-eight percent  
14 of American voters support giving dreamers the chance to stay  
15 in the United States permanently; and

16           WHEREAS, President Donald Trump issued an executive order  
17 in September 2017 ending the deferred action for childhood  
18 arrivals program;

19           NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
20 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that it stand in strong alliance with  
21 dreamers and in opposition to the president's rescission of the  
22 deferred action for childhood arrivals program; and

23           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature urge the  
24 president to stand by those who were brought as children to  
25 this country, the only home many of them have ever known; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature support a  
2 comprehensive and workable approach to repairing the nation's  
3 broken immigration system; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature call upon the  
5 United States congress to take affirmative steps to develop a  
6 new bipartisan and effective version of the deferred action for  
7 childhood arrivals program that does not require dreamers to  
8 choose between their own futures and the futures of their  
9 undocumented families and neighbors; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the president and vice president of the United  
12 States, the United States secretary of homeland security and  
13 the New Mexico congressional delegation.