

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Geoff Garin and Guy Molyneux
DATE: April 27, 2020
RE: Support for Maintaining DACA Protections

Our recently completed national survey for CAP Action shows that a large majority of voters continue to support the DACA program and want President Trump to continue DACA protections even if the Supreme Court rules that he has the authority to terminate the program. After hearing arguments on both sides of the question, voters say by a margin of two to one that if the Supreme Court allows President Trump to terminate the program, Congress should immediately pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers.

This survey was conducted among a representative cross section of 1,004 registered voters between April 10 and April 14, with the coronavirus a front-and-center consideration for respondents. Not only does the survey show that support for DACA has been durable during the coronavirus crisis, it also shows support for extending temporary work permits for immigrants who already have them. A 71% majority of voters support extending work permits for Temporary Protected Status holders—people allowed to stay and work here because they are from countries seriously affected by violent conflict or natural disasters—and 62% support extending current work permits for DACA recipients. In addition, 69% support extending free coronavirus testing and treatment to DACA recipients under Medicaid to maximize public health.

Moreover, the coronavirus crisis adds important arguments in favor of continuing DACA protections. Large majorities, for example, say these reasons for continuing DACA are extremely or very convincing:

- ✓ *As the coronavirus spreads in the United States, 29,000 DACA recipients are stepping up to the plate to help keep Americans safe by working as nurses, doctors, and healthcare providers across the nation.*

- ✓ *At a time when most of us are staying home and avoiding contact with people, over 200,000 DACA recipients are helping keep the country running and risking their health daily to restock grocery shelves, disinfect hospital rooms, deliver food, and perform other essential services.*

Not only are these messages convincing, but the survey suggests they constitute new information for voters and thus are important messages for DACA advocates to be communicating.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

1. **Voters support DACA by 70% to 21%, including large majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans.**

Since 2012, there has been a government program to temporarily allow some undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children, also known as Dreamers, to remain in the United States without being deported if they met certain conditions, including having no criminal record and either being a student, being in the military, or having earned a high school degree. This program is also known as the DACA program.

Based on what you know, do you support or oppose the DACA program?

<i>Support</i>	<i>70%</i>
<i>Oppose</i>	<i>21%</i>
<i>Not sure</i>	<i>9%</i>

DACA is supported by 82% of Democrats, 60% of independents, and 61% of Republicans.

2. **Even if the Supreme Court finds that President Trump has the authority to terminate DACA, 72% of voters say he should temporarily continue the DACA program until Congress can find a permanent solution for the Dreamers. A majority of those who currently intend to vote for Trump in November say he should continue the program.**

President Trump has asked the Supreme Court to give him authority to terminate the DACA program. If the Court rules in his favor, do you think the president should immediately terminate the DACA program, or temporarily continue the DACA program until Congress can find a permanent solution for the Dreamers?

<i>Immediately Terminate DACA</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Temporarily Continue DACA</i>	<i>72%</i>

Among those with strong feelings on the issue, 40% feel strongly that Trump should temporarily continue DACA, while only 15% feel strongly that he should immediately terminate the program.

Majorities of both Biden supporters (85%) and Trump supporters (56%) say Trump should continue DACA, even if the Supreme Court rules in his favor.

3. After hearing an equal number of pro and con arguments, voters say by 65% to 35% that if the Supreme Court rules in Trump's favor Congress should immediately pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers.

Now thinking about all this information related to the DACA program, if the Supreme Court rules that President Trump has the authority to terminate the DACA program, do you think Congress should immediately pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers or should Congress not act to protect the Dreamers?

<i>Permanently protect Dreamers</i>	65%
<i>Do not act to protect Dreamers</i>	35%

Large majorities of both Democrats (82%) and independents (70%) want Congress to immediately pass legislation to permanently protect Dreamers, while 42% of Republican voters support such action.

4. Even though we presented it as a Democratic proposal, there is broad bipartisan support for extending work permits for people with Temporary Protected Status, with 71% of voters expressing support.

Do you support or oppose this proposal by Democrats in Congress: Extend current work permits for people with TPS (Temporary Protected Status), a program only for immigrants already here who have been allowed to stay and work temporarily in the United States because they come from countries that are severely affected by violent conflict or natural disasters.

<i>Support</i>	71%
<i>Oppose</i>	19%
<i>Not sure</i>	10%

Despite the identification of this proposal with Democrats in Congress, it is supported by 64% of Republican voters, as well as by 73% of independents and 77% of Democrats.

5. Fully seven in 10 voters favor extending free coronavirus testing and treatment to DACA recipients under Medicaid, even in the face of a strong opposition argument.

Some people have proposed that DACA recipients—undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children—be made eligible for free coronavirus testing and treatment under Medicaid. Now you will see a pair of statements about this issue. Please indicate which statement you agree with more.

Statement A: We should not be providing taxpayer-funded health benefits to DACA recipients—those should be reserved for American citizens during the coronavirus crisis.

Statement B: DACA recipients should be allowed access to free coronavirus testing and treatment under Medicaid, because our communities stay healthier when everyone can get the medical care they need, especially during a pandemic.

<i>Statement A</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Statement B</i>	<i>69%</i>

Free testing and treatment is supported by 54% of Republican voters, as well as by 71% of independents and 81% of Democrats.