

another major way our Tax Code discourages growth, and that is by leaving small businesses with very little cash on hand.

I have mentioned the high tax rates that small businesses face, which already restrict their cash flow. The accounting rules in the Tax Code just compound that problem. Under current law, small and medium-sized corporations are often required to pay tax on income before they receive the cash, and they cannot deduct all of their expenses when they pay the invoices. It can take years or even decades for them to recover the cost of their investments in equipment and facilities.

For instance, right now the cost of a computer is recovered over 5 years and tractors, over 7 years, if you are in the ag sector of the economy, and commercial buildings, over 39 years.

The consequences of deducting investments over so many years is that businesses can be left extremely cash-poor in the meantime, and cash-poor businesses don't expand. They don't hire new workers, and they don't increase wages.

Any bill Republicans consider has to fix these elements in our Tax Code that are discouraging growth. It has to lower rates for businesses, both large and small. It has to shift our outdated worldwide tax system to a territorial tax system so that American businesses are not at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy and so that American businesses have an incentive to invest their profits at home in American jobs and American workers, instead of abroad. Any bill we consider has to address the cost-recovery rules that are keeping small businesses cash-poor, often for years at a time.

I have already introduced legislation to help startups and small to medium-sized businesses recover the cost of their investments faster. It is legislation that I hope will become part of the final bill that we consider in the Senate. I am looking forward to working with Chairman HATCH and my colleagues on the Senate Finance Committee as we work to draft the final bill.

The American people have had a rough few years, but economic worry doesn't have to become the status quo for the long term. American workers and job creators are as dynamic and creative as ever. We just need to clear the obstacles from their path, and comprehensive tax reform will allow us to do just that. I look forward to helping to bring the American people real relief this year.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 3 p.m., recessed until 4:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. GARDNER).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from California.

DACA

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the need to protect undocumented young people, commonly referred to as Dreamers, from deportation.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or what is called DACA, was announced by President Obama in 2012 to solve an urgent need. Hundreds of thousands of young people brought to this country as children were at risk of being deported. They didn't take the action to come; their parents took the action to come and bring them. President Obama's Executive order temporarily protected these undocumented young people from deportation. DACA also provides the opportunity to obtain work permits and has made it possible for many young DACA beneficiaries to enroll in college.

If Congress doesn't act now and pass a law, President Trump's decision to terminate this program will have devastating consequences for nearly 800,000 families across the United States, particularly those in California. This decision to end DACA without first ensuring that young people have legal protection is why we are demanding a vote on the Dream Act as soon as possible. DACA recipients deserve certainty now, not 6 months from now. These young people trusted our government, and it is time we stopped playing with their lives.

The Dream Act, introduced by Senators GRAHAM and DURBIN, has been considered many times already by this Congress. It was most recently included in the comprehensive immigration reform bill that passed the Senate in 2013 with 68 votes. I remember it well. I remember weeks in committee. I remember dozens of amendments. I remember the time on the floor, the hope that we would be able to pass comprehensive immigration reform. It had an agricultural workers program in it. It had this program for undocumented children. It had H2A. It had a whole panoply of reforms in it, and it

went down. It got 68 votes here, although it didn't survive in the House.

I believe there is broad bipartisan support for the Dream Act. I just learned, for example, that polls are saying that 70 percent of the people in this country are in favor of it. And I would be confident that it would pass if given an up-or-down vote. So I call on leadership to ensure there is a clean vote on the Dream Act this month.

As I mentioned, 800,000 young people have been admitted to the DACA Program, allowing them to come out of the shadows. They were educated here. They work here. They pay taxes. They are integrated into American society. These young people are fiercely patriotic. In every way that truly matters, they are Americans.

Listen to this: 95 percent of DACA recipients are working or in school. That is 95 percent of 800,000. The typical DACA recipient came to this country at 6 years old. They have known no home other than this one. Many of them only speak English.

Seventy-two percent of the top 25 Fortune 500 companies—companies such as Apple, Amazon, Facebook, J.P. Morgan—employ DACA recipients. DACA recipients are contributing significantly to our economy. It is estimated that ending the program would mean a \$460.3 billion hit to the GDP over the next decade.

But protecting DACA recipients isn't a matter of politics or economics; it is really about what is right as Americans and human beings. This is particularly important for me, representing California, because 1 in 4 Dreamers—223,000—live, work, and study in California, and I can testify that they are an essential part of the fabric of our communities. So it is important for Senators and the American public to know the very real human side to this issue.

I want to share the story of a remarkable young woman whom I met and whose family I met. Her name is Vianney Sanchez. She was brought to this country when she was just 1. Today she lives in East Oakland. I met her and her family last month, and I last spoke to her on Monday night. Vianney is a 23-year-old graduate student from UC Santa Cruz with a degree in psychology. She is pursuing a career in public service so she can give back to this country.

Vianney's mother, Maria, whom I also met, worked as an oncology nurse at Highland Hospital, and her father, Eusebio, worked as a truckdriver. They had no criminal record. They owned their own home, which I visited, a small home in East Oakland. They paid their taxes. And they were in this country for 23 years. I saw them the week before the mother and father were deported last month, sobbing in their living room. My office has worked on their case for years, and their deportation was truly heartbreaking. I will never forget having to call Maria and tell her that I had spoken to the Acting

Secretary of Homeland Security, begging her not to deport this family, and that she would be deported and separated from her children the next day. It was one of the most painful calls I have ever had to make.

These heartbreaking photos of the Sanchez family were taken by the San Francisco Chronicle and Bay Area News Group before Maria and Eusebio were forced to leave. This is Maria—20 years a nurse at Highland Hospital. This is Vianney, and this is the second oldest child. The oldest child is DACA, and it has now fallen to her to support her two sisters, maintain the house, work, and hopefully start her career. Her mother, her father, and her American citizen youngest brother are in Mexico. I think these heartbreaking photos tell a story. Vianney now is facing the uncertainty that she, too, could lose protection and be deported. Then what would happen to her sisters?

Every day we fail to act means one more day that Vianney, Melin, and Elizabeth are forced to live with this enormous cloud hanging over their heads. And, you know, Senator, the fear is palpable. You talk to these young people on the telephone, and you can sense what is happening. First of all, they know the government knows everything about them. The government knows where they live, what they do. They have to report regularly. This is kind of a conditional program, and so they are up front and out front. And you would think this would give them a sense of security, but it actually gives them a sense of insecurity because they don't know what the future will bring.

I would like to share the story of another talented and ambitious Californian who has taken full advantage of the opportunity she has been given. This is Denisse Rojas. She arrived in the United States when she was just 10 months old, brought here from Mexico. Like many of our immigrant ancestors, her parents wanted to make a better life for their children. This is a very recent photo of her; you can see she is beautiful.

Denisse's family is similar to other families in California. After arriving in Fremont, her father worked full time in a restaurant while pursuing his high school diploma at night. Her mother attended community college part time for 7 years to earn her nursing degree. After years of trying to gain legal status, her parents were forced to move to Canada. That left Denisse.

Denisse excelled in high school, graduating with a 4.3 GPA. She attended UC Berkeley, which is one of the top public universities in the Nation, to study biology and sociology. She dreamt of going to medical school, driven in part by a family member's earlier death from cancer. The cancer was diagnosed at a late stage because the family's immigration status made it impossible to afford health insurance. Denisse worked as a waitress and commuted an hour each way to classes

because she couldn't afford to live on campus. After graduation, she volunteered at San Francisco General Hospital.

This is Denisse today. She is in New York at Mount Sinai Medical School, one of the country's top programs. She is on track to earn her degree in 2019. You can see her in the middle of this photo in her medical scrubs and how proud she is.

To help other students navigate the admissions process and pursue careers in health and medicine, Denisse co-founded a national nonprofit organization called Pre-Health Dreamers. Through Pre-Health Dreamers, Denisse has helped many other students as they work toward their goals.

After graduation, she intends to specialize in emergency medicine and work in low-income communities to provide healthcare to families like her own who too often go without needed treatment.

Parts of California, particularly our rural counties, are very short on doctors. This is a big problem. In the healthcare reform, they are lucky if they have the choice of one insurance. So we desperately need people like Denisse who want to work in communities most in need of skilled health professionals.

Without DACA or passage of the Dream Act, Denisse won't be able to come home. She won't be able to stay. All of the education that has gotten her here—a top-notch university and a top-notch hospital, I assume as an intern or a resident at this time—she wouldn't have the proper work authorization or accompanying documents, and our country would be denied a highly qualified, motivated doctor.

In closing, I really believe we have a moral obligation to do all we can to shield these young people from deportation. Remember, they did not break the law. They were brought here as children, many as babies. Some don't know the language of the land from whence they came. They all speak English very well. They want the American dream. They are motivated, and they are patriotic. I was listening to a young person the other day, and all she wanted to do was be in the military. She is ROTC and wants to be in the military. You know, these are the people who make this country great, and we can't forsake them.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, it would have taken moral courage—something he doesn't have—for President Trump to stand in front of the American people to say why he was going back on his word to “deal with DACA with heart” and help these “absolutely incredible kids” in a way that is going to “make people happy and proud.”

Instead, he sent out his Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, long a foe of immigration reform, to break the bad news to 800,000 young people and their

families that he was rescinding DACA. This was bloodless, heartless, and completely unjustifiable. In his remarks, the Attorney General composed an elaborate fiction about DACA, a program that has transformed the lives of 800,000 young people, and the Attorney General actually thought the American people would fall for his made-up remarks. He not only claimed that DACA was unconstitutional but also falsely claimed that Dreamers were taking hundreds of thousands of jobs away from Americans and that they deserved to be punished.

The fact is, a strong majority of the American people are siding with the DACA participants. The American people aren't threatened by these inspiring young people. They are not criminals. They aren't causing trouble. They are students, doctors, nurses, teachers, and entrepreneurs making real and meaningful contributions to our society. They are simply asking for the opportunity to pursue their dreams—hence, they are called Dreamers—in the only country they know, the United States of America. It is why so many people across the country are speaking out forcefully against the President's decision to end DACA.

While I was back home in Hawaii last month, I met with activists, community organizations, and State leaders to rally support for DACA and to call for establishing permanent protections for these Dreamers across the country. Hawaii is home to 600 DACA recipients and thousands more Dreamers who could have qualified for the program but were reluctant to expose themselves to the government. I would like to share some of their compelling stories.

Gabriella came to the United States with her family in 2001, fleeing violence in Brazil. They came here out of love and hope for a better future. Every day Gabriella and her family worried about being sent back to the violent situation they escaped. Gabriella graduated from high school with a 3.8 GPA and had big plans to pursue higher education, but at that time she couldn't enroll in college because she was undocumented.

DACA changed her life. She said:

I had been living here undocumented for 10 years and had seen a lot of opportunities pass me by. I knew I couldn't continue to live this way.

[DACA] changed my life for the better. Since getting DACA in 2012, I have been able to get a driver's license, to have a career, to go to school, and leave my home every day knowing that I could come home to my family at the end of the day.

Another story. Mahe came to Hawaii from Tonga when he was a child. When he turned 21, he learned he might be deported. Before receiving DACA, the only job Mahe could find was building rock walls with his uncle in Waialua. He didn't have a car to get to work. He woke up at 4 a.m. every day to catch a bus to Pearl City, where he switched buses for the ride to Waialua.

After working in the hot Sun all day, Mahe would have to take a 2-hour bus

ride home to get to bed at 10 p.m. before starting his routine over again the next morning.

Since I got DACA, life has changed a lot. I applied for my first job and got it. I worked really hard and made supervisor. They gave me a company car and a company phone. It was really, really nice just to know that with hard work and effort you can get places.

Eliminating DACA would erase the meaningful economic and social contributions Dreamers like Gabriella and Mahe have made to Hawaii and our country. Multiply their stories thousands of times, and you get a sense of how many lives are being shattered by a President who wouldn't help the young people he claims to "love," even as he was ordering their probable deportation.

According to a report from the Cato Institute, rescinding DACA would cost the State of Hawaii \$577.5 million in the coming decade from unrealized economic growth and lost taxes. That is from 600 DACA participants. There are 800,000 of them throughout the country. Just the economic loss alone would be tremendous.

Of course, the contributions Dreamers make to our country cannot and should not be reduced only to a dollar figure. Standing up for them and their American dream is a moral imperative. It is why leaders from across Hawaii are speaking about DACA and protecting Dreamers.

In an email to students, faculty, and staff yesterday, the president of the University of Hawaii, David Lassner, reaffirmed the university's "commitment to serve all members of our community, regardless of citizenship status," stating:

Well over four years ago the UH Board of Regents adopted a policy to extend eligibility for resident tuition rates to undocumented students, including but not limited to those who have filed for DACA.

I remain on record, with hundreds of my fellow college and university presidents, in public support of DACA. Over the next months we will strengthen our urging of Congress to extend the DACA program and protect the dreamers of our State and our nation.

He goes on:

Our undocumented students are an integral part of our community and will continue to be extended all the rights, privileges, and services available to our students, from application through graduation.

As our state's only higher public education system we have a deep responsibility to provide high-quality affordable education to advance all our people, our communities and our islands. That mission requires that we support and celebrate diversity, respect and caring.

We must overcome hate and intolerance even as we support free speech and free expression. It is clear that UH, like universities around the country, is entering uncharted territory.

Our clear and firm adherence to our values in challenging times is more essential than ever.

So stated the president of the University of Hawaii.

In another very recent development, Hawaii's attorney general, Doug Chin,

joined 15 attorneys general from across the country filing suit against the Trump administration to prevent it from eliminating the DACA Program. They filed the lawsuit on equal protection grounds. I strongly support efforts in the courts to prevent the President from rescinding DACA and putting 800,000 young lives at risk for deportation.

Since the President has kicked the ball to Congress to save DACA, something he could and should have done himself, Congress must step up and do just that. Congress must step up because we cannot count on the President to do the right thing by exerting consistent, comprehensive, or moral leadership. Although it was completely within the President's power to keep DACA in place, Congress can provide the certainty these Dreamers deserve by passing the Dream Act, a bill that enjoys bipartisan support.

I also want to send a clear message to the President and his hardline supporters in Congress. I will join with my colleagues to resist any effort to hold Dreamers hostage to pay for the President's vanity wall, in exchange for sharp reductions in legal immigration or for any other dog whistles to his base. I will do everything I can to fight against this administration's continued efforts to marginalize minority communities or to pit immigrant communities against one another. As an immigrant and minority myself, I certainly know what these communities are experiencing. This is precisely what the President continues to do in an effort to play to White supremacists in his base. Sadly, this is not surprising. It is up to each of us to fight back, and we will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I want to thank my colleague from Hawaii for her outstanding words. She comes from a State like mine that thrives on diversity, welcoming people from all over the globe and making us stronger, and she has been a symbol of that herself as well as all the millions of wonderful people she represents in Hawaii.

I rise this afternoon alongside my colleague from Hawaii, my colleague from Washington State, and others to make a case for the swift passage of the Dream Act. There are 800,000 Dreamers living in our country today, hard-working folks who came to this country through no fault of their own. To many, America is the only country they have ever known. More than that, they contribute so much to our country. They work in our companies, go to our schools, even serve in our military. All they want is to live and work and contribute to our great country. Why wouldn't we want them to?

The President's decision yesterday to end DACA threw their futures in doubt, threatening to rip apart families and telling people who have worked so hard

to become Americans that they have to leave the country. The President's DACA decision is also bad economics. It would deprive thousands of employers that rely on these hard workers.

The Libertarian-leaning Cato Institute estimates that ending DACA would cost employers over \$2 billion in 2 years alone. The Center for American Progress found it would drain \$433 billion from our GDP over 10 years. That is why more than 500 business leaders—some of the leading business people in our country—have signed on to a letter in defense of DACA. That is why Microsoft recently said that protecting the Dreamers was their No. 1 legislative goal, greater than a cut to the corporate tax rate. That is how much Dreamers mean to them personally and to their bottom lines.

The economic consequence of ending DACA would be far-reaching and likely devastating. There would also be a devastating moral cost if we didn't pass the Dream Act to protect these kids.

I am reminded of a young woman, Kirssy Martinez, who was brought to this country from the Dominican Republic as a very young child and grew up in my city, in the borough of the Bronx. After graduating high school in New York City, Kirssy was stuck in the shadows. She worked small jobs as a waitress and as a babysitter. Though she was a good student coming out of high school and even had a few scholarship offers, she couldn't attend college because she didn't have a green card.

The DACA Program granted her temporary legal status. She worked hard to scrape together enough for loans and enrolled in Bronx Community College. A few years ago, I spoke at her graduation, where she was the valedictorian of her class. I watched her. What a wonderful young lady. She had a perfect GPA, 4.0.

Kirssy represents what we think of as the best of our country. She is part of what makes America great. Like generations before her, she wants to study hard, work hard, and give back to her community. What kind of country would we be—what kind of country have we become if we say that Kirssy and 800,000 hard-working folks just like her are not welcome.

Congress has a responsibility to act. I know the Presiding Officer sees it that way as well, and I very much appreciate it. We should do, as soon as we can, whatever we can.

I repeat what I said to the majority leader and the Speaker of the House this morning at the White House: Put a clean Dream Act on the floor in both Houses. It will receive bipartisan support. I believe it would pass by significant margins in each House. We could remove the fear of deportation and give peace of mind to 800,000 Dreamers if only our leadership would put the bill on the floor. It is that simple. If we don't see a clean Dream Act in September, we, as the minority, are prepared to attach it to legislative vehicles in the fall until it passes.

These Dreamers are Americans in their hearts. They ought to become Americans in the law books as well, and we Democrats will not rest until that happens.

Thank you, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, some 800,000 people in this country woke up this morning with great uncertainty about their future because of President Trump's reckless, hateful agenda. Young men and women in this country are now unsure if they will be able to finish their college degree in the United States. They are unsure if they can keep their job at the hospital or as a firefighter or serve in our military to fight for our freedom. They are unsure if they can keep their homes or remain with loved ones, and they are scared that this country might break its promise and use against them the very information that they submitted to enroll in DACA in order to find them and deport them. That is appalling, and it marks a very sad time for this United States of America.

President Trump has caused a lot of divisive and disheartening moments since the start of the year, but rescinding DACA is an unusually cruel and heartless move even for this administration, and it flies in the face of so much of what and who made this country what it is. So I am here today, with my colleagues, to urge all of us in the Senate to use this moment of uncertainty and division to do what is right—to come together to defend DACA.

Use your voices for the Dreamers in your States and the many others who are calling and writing and marching in our streets, urging all of us to act for our neighbors and our coworkers, our students, our doctors, our engineers, our friends, and our first responders, who are stepping up at this very moment to protect people from the hurricanes that are wreaking havoc in Texas and Florida to the wildfires that are blazing in the West.

Let's stand behind our colleagues, Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM, who have already paved a bipartisan path forward on this issue and who, just hours after the President's announcement, reiterated that they are ready to get this done. I am too.

There are more than 17,000 young men and women in my home State of Washington who are deeply connected to their communities. They were brought to this country as children. Some of them were so young when they arrived that they did not even know they were not born here until years or, maybe, even a decade later when they went to apply for college or to get a job.

Just yesterday, I heard about a young man in my home State who is very distraught. He was brought to the United States as a toddler. He did not know that he was not a citizen until he turned 16 and went to get his driver's

license. As a result, he signed up for DACA. He got his license and he got a job, and he is now in his second year in a science program at a community college, getting straight A's and hoping to transfer to the University of Washington. Now he is frightened that he is going to lose all of that and be forced to go to a country that he has never known. He says that he does not know anyone in Mexico nor has he been there to visit.

That is just one story.

I sat down with a number of Dreamers in my State. They are ambitious, they work hard, they play by the rules, and they do the right thing. They know one home—America. To penalize them for forces beyond their control is simply not what this country is about.

While President Trump may see ending DACA as a political move to pander to his extreme, hard-line base, I know that the majority of people across this country will stand up and fight back. They will not let President Trump strip away protections or use Dreamers as a bargaining chip for his hateful crackdown on immigrants in our communities or on wasteful border wall spending.

As a voice in Congress for my State, I stand ready to work with my colleagues on either side of the aisle to find a solution so as to honor the 800,000 Dreamers who call America home and to honor the very foundation of our immigrant Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I understand that Senator VAN HOLLEN was going to speak, but since he is not here, I ask unanimous consent to make what remarks I need to in morning business and will yield to him when I am through.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, it is interesting to hear the DACA talk. I think one should take a step back and look and ask: Is it really unreasonable to merely say that so long as we will obey the law, we are going to be all right? I think this President did the right thing when he said: All right, Congress. You take a few months and see if you can come up with some answers. That is a good answer. If that is the case, then that is, maybe, what we should do.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, what I am really concerned about right now is that we are getting ready to do the National Defense Authorization Act. This is something that we will pass. We have passed it now for 55 consecutive years, and it is going to be passed this time. It is important because one of the primary constitutional responsibilities we have is to provide for the common defense of our great Nation, and

recent worldwide events highlight the urgency of this need.

I have spoken numerous times about the grave threat that is posed by North Korea and warned that it would not be long before North Korea could demonstrate the capability of firing an intercontinental ballistic missile that would be capable of reaching the United States. It is not just my saying it; others are saying it. We have a lot of very courageous individuals who have come forth from the military. I am not used to this. I have been here for 23 years; yet I have not seen them come forth and just be clear about the threat that is facing this country.

In April, ADM Harry Harris, the Pacific Command commander testified in front of the Senate Armed Services Committee that it is clearly a matter of when and not if that Korea would develop the capability to strike the United States of America. This has never happened before. In May, Lt. Gen. Vincent Stewart, who is the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, testified. Actually, he testified before the subcommittee that I chair. He said:

Let me be clear on this point. If left on its current trajectory, the regime will ultimately succeed in fielding a nuclear-armed missile capable of threatening the United States homeland.

We have talked about this being the most threatened position that we have been in in the history of this country. I have often referred to the good old days of the Cold War when we had two superpowers. We knew what they had, and they knew what we had. It was predictable, but it is not predictable anymore. You have countries like Yemen, countries like Iran, countries like North Korea that are developing these capabilities that they now have. It is within reach.

Since then, unfortunately, I have been proven to be correct as the North Korea regime continues to demonstrate its dire threat facing us. On July 4, North Korea successfully launched its first ICBM. It was the first time that they had done it. If fired on a standard trajectory, the missile could have ranged Alaska. Some experts say that it could have gone even deeper into the continental United States.

In light of that test, the Defense Intelligence Agency updated its assessment of the timeline by which North Korea will be able to reliably range U.S. cities—we are talking about Washington, DC—with nuclear missiles as early as the end of next year or even earlier. This past Sunday, September 3, North Korea tested what is believed to be a hydrogen bomb, its most powerful nuclear weapon to date—almost seven times as powerful as the bomb that was detonated over Hiroshima. North Korean media immediately stated that the nuclear test was to determine the “accuracy and credibility” of its “hydrogen bomb to be placed at the payload of an ICBM.”

It does not get any more direct than that. Even if delivered by a relatively