

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 It has to shift our outdated worldwide tax system to a territorial tax system so that American businesses are not at a competitive disadvantage in the global economy and so that American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