

America's core values. It weakens us as a nation and certainly weakens our ability to lead globally with our values as we present them to the global community.

So, as a result of that decision, what do we need to do? Each one of us needs to stand up and be counted, to speak out about America and what makes this Nation the great Nation it is. Then, collectively, we need to take action to show the American people that we will stand up not just for the Dreamers—and we need to stand up for the Dreamers—but we will also stand up for the values that have made America the great Nation it is.

I support S. 1615, a bipartisan bill that has been introduced by Senator DURBIN and Senator GRAHAM. I thank both of our colleagues for their leadership in bringing that bill forward. That bill will provide protection for the Dreamers and for the DACA Program so that Congress can say: No, Mr. President, we do not want to terminate this program. This program is in our national security interests. This program is why America is the strong Nation that it is. It is not only right for 800,000 people; it is right for all people in this country.

This body showed great leadership a few years ago when we passed comprehensive immigration reform. I am for passing comprehensive immigration reform. Let's take care of and protect the Dreamers, and then let's work together to pass comprehensive immigration reform that we did just a few years ago that was never taken up in the House of Representatives.

Let me close by telling a few stories about Dreamers in Maryland. One story appeared in the Baltimore Sun. It begins:

Jesus Perez doesn't remember much about his journey to the United States two decades ago, beyond his parents using a simple phrase that would change the course of his life: "We're leaving."

Perez was 5 when he left Mexico. He's never been back.

Perez [is] now a 25-year-old research assistant at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

For Perez, the DACA program was a "relief" that allowed him to come out of the shadows. It also allowed him to take the job at Hopkins, and to get a standard driver's license.

"To now have it in limbo means that you either lose it all, and restart all over again—" Perez said, trailing off. "I'm not going to let that happen. We will win in the end."

I want Mr. Perez to know that we are going to fight here in the U.S. Senate, not just for his ability to remain here in the United States but for what that means for the strength of our country.

Our university community in Maryland has strongly supported the DACA Program. Dr. Loh, president of the University of Maryland, College Park, called the decision "antithetical to the core values" of higher education. He vowed in a letter to students and staff to "continue to identify all avenues available for offering support."

Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels and Provost Sunil Kumar

reaffirmed the university's support for DACA, saying that Johns Hopkins University students directly impacted by the decision will be given the aid they need to complete their degrees. President Daniels and Provost Kumar said: "The decision on DACA will not deter us from working to ensure that all members of our community can participate fully in our mission—the pursuit of excellence in education, discovery and service to the world."

As President Loh and President Daniels fight on behalf of the DACA children, we need to also let the American people know that we are going to fight for what makes this Nation the great Nation that it is.

The Baltimore Sun also told the story of Monica Perez, who is one of dozens of Dreamers from Maryland who rallied near the White House on Tuesday to protest the decision. The 23-year-old Baltimore woman came to the United States from Mexico when she was 7 years old.

Ms. Perez said DACA "gave us the opportunity to feel safe. We've already been in the shadows for so long." Ms. Perez works for CASA de Maryland. "I'm just scared for my parents, for myself, and for my whole community."

Mr. President, let us do the right thing and immediately extend the DACA Program. These are not 800,000 faceless individuals. I urge all of my colleagues to get to know the Dreamers and to understand their life story. It is heart-wrenching—the courage that they have shown, the obstacles they have overcome. Let's not put obstacles in their way. Let's allow their dreams to be able to come true. Let's stand up and be counted and fight for the Dreamers. Let's work together to protect their status, and then let's work together to fix our broken immigration system. That is our responsibility. This is our opportunity. Let's work together to get this done.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business, for debate only, be extended until 11:30 a.m.

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

DACA

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today as a proud Michigander, American, and the son of an immigrant. My mother Madeleine grew up in France and met my father Herb when he was serving overseas during World War II. They fell in love, were married, and she

had the opportunity to immigrate to the United States where she started a new life with my dad and was proud to become a new citizen of the United States of America.

She worked hard as a nurse's aide and a union steward, and she provided inspiration and opportunity for me and my sisters. And, because the Detroit Tigers don't have a game on TV at this moment, I hope that she is home in Rochester watching me speak right now.

My mother's American experience informs my views on the nearly 7,000 Michiganders who have benefited from the protection of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA.

Let's look at the facts. The young men and women known as Dreamers and who are helped by DACA are students, serve in the military, launch new businesses, create jobs, and boost economic growth. These Dreamers did not choose to come to this country; they were brought here by their parents. They have no meaningful connections to the foreign countries they left as children and often don't even speak the language. They know no home other than the United States of America, and they were raised as Americans.

They have passed extensive background checks, paid fines, and continue to pay taxes, which reduces our budget deficit. They pay into Social Security, which increases its solvency for all Americans.

According to the CATO Institute, deporting the more than 700,000 DACA participants would cost—yes, cost—the Federal Government over \$60 billion and reduce economic growth in this country by \$280 billion over the next decade.

Rescinding DACA is not just cruel and unfair, it is a terrible economic policy and a bad deal for the American taxpayer.

Numbers can only say so much, so I often tell the story of a fellow Michigander, Ola Kaso. Ola is pictured right here. Ola's family came to the United States legally but unsuccessfully seeking asylum in 1998. Ola was only 5 years old when she came to America. After 13 years in the country—13 years—the government attempted to deport her and her mother back to Albania, just weeks before she was set to graduate from high school. Backed by the support of fellow Michiganders, Ola's family was granted a stay of the deportation.

I am proud to report that Ola ultimately graduated as the valedictorian of her high school class. She recently graduated from the University of Michigan and plans to attend medical school. She is a beneficiary of the DACA Program.

Our Nation is facing a doctor shortage—especially in rural areas—and this young woman wants to dedicate her