



October 3, 2017

**Written Statement for the Record
by Muslim Public Affairs Council
before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary
on Oversight of the Administration's Decision to End Deferred Action for
Childhood Arrivals**

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, and distinguished Members of the Committee. The Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC) respectfully submits testimony for the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on "Oversight of the Administration's Decision to End Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals." MPAC supports a clean DREAM Act, without any dangerous provisions that would hurt families and border communities, and would provide a path to citizenship for aspiring Americans who were brought to the United States as children.

DACA Recipients Face Uncertainty

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an executive order introduced by former President Barack Obama in 2012, was one method to temporarily safeguard undocumented immigrants, who arrived to the U.S. as children, from deportation. For five years, DACA has shielded 800,000 young, undocumented immigrants from deportation. It included the possibility of a work permit and a chance to attend school, but offers no path to citizenship.

On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced the termination of the DACA program while also giving Congress until March 5, 2018 to possibly save the policy.

We Urge You to Pass a Clean DREAM Act

America is a nation powered by immigrants. Yet despite the enormous contributions made by immigrants, our nation's immigration system is fundamentally flawed.

Nowhere is this truer than the case of 2.3 million young undocumented immigrants who lack a path to citizenship. The young people protected by this legislation contribute to our economy are veterans of our military and excel as students in our universities. They were raised here most of their lives. Their entire identity is American -- because as far as they are concerned -- America is their only home.

We have the responsibility to provide a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants. For example, 29-year old Fatima Ahmed has been in the U.S. for over 28 years. She is a New Yorker and undocumented Muslim immigrant. When Fatima was only one year old, she arrived with her mother from Bangladesh. She has a master's degree and runs her own textile company. Now, Fatima's future is in your hands.

The Economic Benefits Are Substantial

Revamping our broken immigration system can help our nation deal with its economic and fiscal crises. A study conducted by the Immigration Policy Center found immigration reform will generate \$1.5 trillion in revenue and will generate between 750,000 and 900,000 jobs during a span of ten years. A CNN/ORC survey shows that nearly two-thirds of Americans say there should be a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants.

Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Feinstein, and distinguished Members of the Committee, your support for the DREAM Act is critical to its passage. DREAMers have grown up in this country and should be assured they can live, drive, continue their education, work and pursue their dreams in the United States without fear of detention or deportation. I am calling on you to act clearly and immediately to do all you can to defend DREAMers and pass a clean DREAM Act.