

Center for American Progress Action Fund



TO: Members of Congress
FROM: Center for American Progress Action Fund
Re: House Immigration Vote Recommendations
Date: Wednesday, June 20, 2018

This week the House of Representatives will consider two immigration bills, H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act and H.R. 6136, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act. These votes come after the Trump Administration rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in September 2017, leaving nearly 815,000 young people in limbo, and in the middle of a Trump Administration-created humanitarian crisis that has led to the cruel separation of thousands of families seeking asylum.

These partisan bills before the House of Representatives do not provide meaningful relief to Dreamers and do not resolve the moral crisis created by Trump's family separation policy. They do, however undermine our legal immigration system, and eviscerate protections for asylum seekers and children. H.R. 4760 and H.R. 6136 both cave to the Trump agenda: building Trump's costly and unnecessary wall, eliminating protections for asylum seekers--including children--and erecting alongside the barbaric policy of family separation policy a massive and un-American expansion of family incarceration camps. All this in exchange for paltry protections for Dreamers.

The Center for American Progress Action Fund urges you to vote NO on the following bills and rule up for consideration:

1. Vote **NO** on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4760; voting for the rule automatically invalidates the Curbelo "Queen of the Hill" Discharge Petition
2. Vote **NO** on H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act
3. Vote **NO** on H.R. 6136, the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act

Vote NO on the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4760, Securing America's Future Act

- Voting in favor of this rule would end future debate on the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017 (H.R. 3440) and USA Act of 2018 (H.R. 4796) under Discharge Petition 0010, which currently has 216 signatures. Only two more signatures are needed for the House to have the opportunity to take a meaningful vote in July on permanent protections for Dreamers.
- Voting in favor of this rule is a vote *against* bipartisan efforts in the House to secure permanent protections for Dreamers.

Vote NO on H.R. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act

- **No Path to Citizenship.** As CAP's Immigration Policy team has detailed, H.R. 4760 excludes Dreamers from gaining permanent status. Estimates suggest only half or even as little as 10% of Dreamers would qualify for the paltry multi-year, renewable work permit and legal status under the bill.
- **An End to Family Unity.** This bill blocks American citizens from reuniting with their parents and siblings abroad, blocks American citizens and Lawful Permanent Residents from reuniting with their adult children, and eliminates the Diversity Visa program.
- **Prison for Millions of Undocumented Immigrants.** This bill would make unlawful presence in the United States a criminal offense instead of a civil one. 11 million undocumented immigrants would be turned into criminals overnight and could face months or years in prison. This criminalization would include the majority of Dreamers who are shut out of the renewable work permits and well as Dreamers who receive the bill's temporary protection in the event that their income falls below 125 percent of the federal poverty level. The bill criminalizes the poverty and misfortune of Dreamers.
- **Makes it easier to deport asylum seekers, including children.** H.R. 4760 would force asylum seekers to establish their claim within days of entering the country in order to avoid deportation and rolls back protections in the bipartisan Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008. Instead of recognizing the unique vulnerability of people fleeing violence and persecution, the bill would make it far more likely that asylum seekers and unaccompanied children will be quickly deported back to their countries of origin, potentially being returned to harm or even death.

Vote NO on H.R. 6136, Border Security and Immigration Reform Act

- **Makes it Easier to Deport More Children More Quickly.** As CAP immigration has detailed, this bill would allow DHS to quickly deport children to some of the most dangerous countries on earth. In 2018, Honduras ranked first in the world for child homicides, El Salvador ranked third and Guatemala fourth.
- **Addresses Family Separation by Keeping Children in Jail For Longer Periods of Time and Funding Family Detention Camps.** Mandates American taxpayers fund the incarceration of children and their families for months or even years in worse conditions without adequate protections for children. It also funds family immigration jails and preempts state licensing requirements for facilities holding children.
- **H.R. 6136 Inadequately Addresses the Underlying Causes of Family Separations.** Family separations would still occur for parents charged criminally with illegal re-entry, and any parent who receives a sentence of even one day in prison by a federal judge.
- **Holding Dreamers Hostage; No Guaranteed Path to Citizenship for Dreamers.** The bill ties the fate of Dreamers to border money and puts them in a convoluted path to citizenship. If DHS uses the border money for other purposes, the path to citizenship for Dreamers will be eliminated.
- **A Convoluted Path.** In addition, Dreamers' path to citizenship is at the mercy of an untested and confusing point system. Some Dreamers who don't have enough "points" would never get a path to citizenship. The points system will also penalize mothers and caregivers who have to balance education and careers with caring for their loved ones.

HR 6136 offers less protection to Dreamers than the White House-supported bill that failed to receive even 40 votes in the Senate.

- **Tens of Billions for an Unnecessary Wall.** The bill provides \$23.4 billion to, among other things, build President Trump's border wall, something that no serious expert believes is necessary

CAP Action Fund strongly urges Representatives to stand with Dreamers and immigrant families and vote:

- **NO** on the rule allowing for consideration of H.R. 4760;
- **NO** on H.R. 4760; and
- **NO** on H.R. 6136.