

Enable DREAMers to serve on Capitol Hill

From: The Honorable Ruben Gallego

Sent By: XXXXXXXXXX@mail.house.gov

Date: 3/22/2016

Current originals (23): Reps. Kirkpatrick, Gallego, Castro, Chu, Grijalva, Gutierrez, Swalwell, Cardenas, Napolitano, Gene Green, Lofgren, Conyers, Moore, Norton, Rangel, Honda, Brownley, Takano, Lewis, Veasey, Castor, Hinojosa, Schakowsky, Adam Smith

Dear Colleague:

Under current law, paid employment in the House and Senate is limited to individuals who are U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents in the process of naturalizing (certain refugees and individuals granted asylum are also eligible). As a result, the DREAMers—undocumented young people brought to this country through no fault of their own—are currently barred from working here on Capitol Hill.

Since the implementation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative, which granted DREAMers work authorization and protection from removal, beneficiaries have been able to work legally to support themselves and their families without the fear of deportation. We believe they should also have the opportunity to serve in congressional offices where decisions affecting their communities are made every day.

That's the goal of The American Dream Employment Act. Eligibility for employment in the federal government, including the House and Senate, is restricted by a provision that is annually attached to the Legislative Branch Appropriations bill. Our bill would amend this section of the recently enacted omnibus spending bill (Sec. 704 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2015) to include DACA beneficiaries as an additional category of individuals eligible for paid employment in Congress. (**Important note:** This legislation solely applies to employment in the House and Senate and would not affect other agencies or departments within the federal government.)

Please join us in enabling DREAMers to bring their unique abilities and perspectives to Capitol Hill by becoming an original cosponsor of The American Dream Employment Act. Please contact XXXXX in Rep. Kirkpatrick's office at XXXXXXXXXX@mail.house.gov or XXXXX in Rep. Gallego's office at XXXXXXXXXX@mail.house.gov with any questions.

Sincerely,

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress

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