



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL

Legislation Text

File #: 17-5196, **Version:** 2

PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE FOR FILE ID 17-5196
County Board Agenda 9-13-2017

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS TO REINSTATE THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM OR REPLACE IT WITH A PATHWAY TO PERMANENT LEGAL RESIDENCY

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in 2012, as a compromise measure after Congress failed to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would have provided certain eligible persons with a pathway to permanent legal residency; and

WHEREAS, DACA did not provide a pathway to permanent legal residency, but made it possible for individuals who were brought to the United States as children to live and work here legally for a renewable two-year period, if they met the program's stringent qualifications and other requirements; and

WHEREAS, since 2012, over 800,000 individuals have been approved for DACA, receiving deferred action from deportation, social security numbers, and temporary work authorization; and

WHEREAS, Illinois has the fourth-largest DACA beneficiary population nationwide with more than 42,000 Illinoisans who have benefitted from the program; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017, President Donald Trump rescinded DACA and, effective March 5, 2018, no further renewals will be granted, unless Congress acts to reinstate the program; and

WHEREAS, a failure to continue DACA or replace it with a pathway to permanent legal residency in light of the President's actions will not only be severely disruptive to the lives of DACA beneficiaries who entrusted the government with personal information and came out of the shadows in exchange for relief from deportation and other DACA benefits, but may also adversely impact the United States economy, fracture communities, and engender greater distrust of government; and

WHEREAS, this country has always served as a beacon of hope to many suffering around the world; and

WHEREAS, the parents of DACA recipients brought them here at a young age to offer them a better life and an opportunity to achieve the American dream; and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients did not choose to violate the immigration laws of the United States and deserve the benefits and protections DACA offered; and

WHEREAS, DACA recipients have lived most of their lives in the United States and have made vast contributions to this country; and

WHEREAS, until the program is reinstated or replaced with a pathway to permanent legal residency, no DACA participants should be deported from the United States simply due to their citizenship and immigration status; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the President and Cook County Board of Commissioners that the President of the United States ought to reinstate DACA and work with Congress to pass legislation making it permanent, or replace it with a pathway to permanent legal residency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be delivered by the Cook County Clerk to the President of the United States and each member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation.