Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals

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Introduction

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is a policy that, whether implemented or halted, will have a bearing on a significant fraction of the population. This impact that it has is why it was prudent to listen and understand the issue at hand from different points of view. Needless to say, some parties argue for both sides of the DACA conversation. While others are totally on board with the program, there are others who disagree with the program and oppose it in the strongest terms possible. Some of the relevant stakeholders that were party to this conversation are the government, the policymakers, including Congress and the senators, the American citizens, the DACA beneficiaries and the human rights activists.

The Government

The Obama administration was where the DACA program originated. The current government, however, is in opposition to this program and has taken steps in a bid to stop the program. It is important to remember that immigration was a strong pillar as part of President Trump's campaign promises. He ran for office and won on that promise, and this shows the eagerness of the Americans to find a better solution to this issue. The government has shown its concern about the DACA initiative. Firstly, from the definition of DACA, you will immediately notice that it's a protection for illegal immigrants. The government cannot make efforts to keep and enforce the law while at the same time supporting acts that directly contradict it. Documentation of immigrants is essential because it provides correct statistics for so many planning and policies that are important for a country to develop. The more people there are in a community, the higher the demand for jobs, which means that the available job opportunities automatically decrease.

Let us take an example of the 1986 Immigration and Control Act passed during President Reagan's tenure; this policy provided leeway for more than 2.7 million people to obtain legal status in the country. In the backdrop of this policy, it was observed that this caused a massive immigration surge, with many people illegally crossing the borders into the country. In today's society, where there is a significant threat from terrorism, amongst other risks that are facing the country, implementing such policies at the moment may prove detrimental and may do more harm than good. President Trump's administration said in September 2017 that it plans to phase out the DACA program and stop anyone else from being granted legal status. Although the courts thwarted those efforts, he has gone on and

has been seeking support from Congress to phase out the DACA program and instead opt for a much better program that will work well with policies that are in place (Knopf, 2017; Wong et al., 2014).

The Policy Makers

The Congress and Senate are divided mainly along party lines, although not entirely. The Democrats want DACA allowed to continue due to the many benefits it has shown to have, while the Republicans are opposed to the DACA program and are trying to replace it with a much more improved policy. From the Democrats' point of view, although there has been speculation that the DACA program will cause more harm, those harms cannot directly be linked to the DACA program alone. The DACA program has shown some remarkable results on the contrary. It has helped strengthen the military; there are currently more than one thousand military officers who are under DACA coverage. Even though the numbers are not significant, these individuals play a vital role in their respective units of command and deporting them would be a blow to the military. The Democrats' point of view is progressive; they know that, like it or not, there is a population of people who would do anything to get to the United States.

They would pay some fees `under the table` and still get to the country and work. DACA provides a safe alternative. Allowing the immigrants a legal way to be registered in the country would let the people bring themselves out and be registered. This is much better than the options of trying to close all ways of entry and instead deploying police and a lot of resources to go after many illegal immigrants. This way, the country saves resources and allows the police to focus on other, more significant problems.

The Republican Point Of View Is In Opposition To The Program And Instead Opting To Stop It

The Republicans firmly believe that the move to allow more immigrants will take away many jobs from ordinary, hard-working Americans. It is clear that the immigrants come to America looking for jobs, and they are willing to do the jobs at much lower wages. This makes them very competitive, and they take away the jobs. The current economy was built upon a known statistic. The planning, building, and allocation of resources are based on documented statistics. The implementation of DACA directly affects resources like this. Resources like schools, hospitals, and other welfare facilities need to be planned for. Take, for instance, when Medicare was implemented after the passing of the Affordable Care Act, the queues in hospitals were so long that there was up to six months prior appointment booking time. The same fate will befall the country if DACA is implemented and allowed to run.

The Human Rights Activist

Human rights activists and even the United Nations have urged the United States not to scrap the program. The program significantly affects a population of close to a million people who could be expelled should it be terminated. The `Dreamers`, as they are called, are at risk of being deported, many of whom have lived in the United States for decades, most of their lives. They do not know any other place as home other than the US. Many who run the risk of being deported are women and young children who ran away; back in their countries, they will be faced with challenges such as violence, crime, and lawlessness. Some human rights organizations have come out and tried to point out that any move to end this program may be against basic international law and will be setting a precedent for other countries to follow suit. They say that the United States as a country was a `country of immigrants` where people came from different places all over the world, and today it is the United States.

The DACA Beneficiaries

The DACA beneficiaries are very disappointed by the idea of the scrapping of the program. The program has given them a chance to work and live in the United States legally, where they have established their lives, lived in peace and collaborated with the government. There is a feeling that the government has held their lives hostage in a row between the Republicans and the Democrats. The DACA program was created for the benefit of children who were brought to America as kids but have grown up here. Some of them were young infants when they were brought here and therefore even have no idea what their country is like. If the government deports them, they have no idea where they will go, how they will start their new lives, and who they will go to. They have decided to take part in peaceful demonstrations on the roads to protest attempts to deport them. In the streets, they have been joined by human rights activists and other Americans who understand their plea. They hope their protest will catch the attention of the government and the legislators so that they do not pass these laws.

The American Citizens

According to a January poll done by CBS News, seventy percent of Americans support DACA. NBC News did a different poll that also shows that a large population of Americans support DACA and would like the DACA beneficiaries to stay in the country. Other news sources that conducted polls on the matter found a similar result, with CNN finding that 8 out of every 10 Americans support it. Those who support the removal of DACA have pointed out their concerns such as the government. They have been lobbying for the removal of the program in different ways. There are, however, others who are not on either side but want there to be a middle ground. These varied opinions are why there has been a lot of delay in decision-making on the DACA agenda (Torres, 2017).

Conclusion

All in all, there is a seemingly sensitive and very crucial matter of immigration. We all want to be safe and for there to be a dynamic economy. The different stakeholders have divergent and opposing views on the subject of DACA. However, the step taken by the White House to invite the opposition to discuss and make a deal on DACA is one step forward in trying to find a solution to this ongoing controversy.

References

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