

# Little Dreamers Amendment

## What is at stake?

Children of immigrants comprise one quarter of the U.S. child population, and will make up a critical segment of our future workforce. While the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S.744) is a historic step in the right direction for young immigrants, under the bill some of our most vulnerable children would be required to wait more than a decade before they are eligible for citizenship.

The DREAM Act in S.744 provides an expedited 5-year path to citizenship for youth who entered the U.S. prior to age 16, have graduated from high school or earned a GED, and earned a college diploma, attended two years of college, or spent four years in the military. However, the bill does not allow those who entered the U.S. as children but are too young to have graduated from high school or completed a GED to qualify for the 5-year path to citizenship under the DREAM Act. Instead, these children are required to follow the standard adult path to citizenship, which could mean up to a 13-year wait for the youngest children.



## What does the amendment do?

The Little Dreamers amendment, sponsored by Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), would ensure that young children are not excluded from the DREAM Act's expedited pathway to citizenship simply because of their age. Specifically, the Little Dreamers amendment would allow children who meet requirements of the DREAM Act and are under the age of 18 upon completing five years of registered provisional status to be eligible to adjust to lawfully permanent resident status and be immediately eligible for citizenship.

Ultimately, providing young children with an expedited pathway to citizenship under the DREAM Act will ensure that every child in America has the opportunity to achieve his or her dreams and give back to the country they call home.

**The Little Dreamers amendment is supported by child advocacy and immigrant rights groups, including:**

First Focus Campaign for Children  
National Education Association  
United We Dream