



**Undergraduate  
Student Government**

**UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT**

**November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

**Student Senate**

**S.S.R. #6**

Sponsors: Senator Kannan, Senator Barron

Student Senate Action  Passed/Failed/Tabled

**A Resolution**

Encouraging legislators from Iowa to support Federal Protections for children of long-term visa holders, by Supporting America’s Children Act and the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which adds age-out protections for children of long-term visa holders to fix gaps in our immigration laws.

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**Section 1. Short Title**

This resolution may be cited as “Resolution in support of age-out protections for the children of long-term visa holders.”

**Section 2. Discussion**

**Whereas**, more than 250,000 children living in the United States are the dependents of long-term non-immigrant visa holders – these children are called the “Documented Dreamers”.

**Whereas**, the average age of when these children are brought to the United States is at 5 years of age.

**Whereas**, many Americans are not aware that an immigrant child may grow up under a documented status but still have no clear path to citizenship.

**Whereas**, the efforts to protect the children of immigrants such as the DACA and the proposed Dream Act have excluded the Documented Dreamers because of the requirements for the applicants to be undocumented.

**Whereas,** these children are raised to fundamentally experience the American culture – they grow up in the United States, attend American Schools, and attend American Universities holding lawful visas.

**Whereas,** the legal protections for documented dreamers expire upon their twenty first birthday, at which time they lose their opportunity to obtain permanent residency and are forced to self deport leaving their families in United States.

**Whereas,** the US immigration system is facing unprecedented backlogs and delays in processing green card applications, and self-deportation removes previously protected documented immigrant children from their protected status and their place from the waiting list.

**Whereas,** such policies can drive a significant loss in human capital in the United States, harming long term domestic economic and social interests.

**Whereas,** the CATO institute estimates the economic costs of compelling hundreds of thousands of Documented Dreamers who have received the investment of American public education and public service resources to self deport exceeds \$30 billion.

**Whereas,** these documented dreamers are under pressure to switch to student visas before/when they turn 21 and apply for work visas after they graduate out of college.

**Whereas,** the children of immigrants represent a highly educated population that is restricted from finding employment in the United States, taking their skills and talents to our global competitors.

**Whereas,** we count the Documented Dreamers are among the diverse and high-achieving student body of the University of Iowa.

**Whereas,** these highly skilled and talented group of people will contribute significantly towards the future of United States. By driving out this high achieving population, we are playing a part in discouraging immigration to the United States.

**Whereas,** the Undergraduate Senate has the responsibility to elevate the voices of students who have been harmed by the prevailing systems and institutions.

**Whereas,** the interests of the Student Body of the University of Iowa, the flagship institution of our state, should be reflected in the priorities of our representatives in the state and federal government.

**Whereas,** the current policy debates in the United States Senate and House of Representatives are presenting bipartisan opportunities for the advancement for protection of Documented Dreamers.

**Whereas,** Senator Joni Ernst, Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeke and Ashley Hinson and Representative Cindy Axne of Iowa are co-sponsors of S. 2753 and H.R. 4331 (America's Children Act), highlighting bipartisan support to create age-out protections; and

**Whereas,** On July 14th, 2022, House Amendment 923 (narrower version of America's Children Act) to H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 was included and passed along with the rest of the legislation in the United States House by a vote count of 329-101;

**Whereas,** On September 29th, 2022, Senate Amendment 6165 to the H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 was introduced and cosponsored by 5 Democrat Senators and 5 Republican Senators

### **Section 3. Action**

*Resolved,* the Undergraduate Student Government at the University of Iowa recognizes that these immigrant children are an incredible asset to the University of Iowa, the State of Iowa, and the country as a whole.

The Undergraduate Student Government recognizes, supports, and stands with the Documented Dreamer students on the University of Iowa campus. In order to show our concern and help them from our end we must make this support known to the federal, state, and local government.

*Resolved,* we must advocate for increased resources and assist the Documented Dreamer students on campus. By sending this Resolution to the below mentioned officials, we call upon the Congressional delegation to stand with the children of immigrants which have been long term visa holders.

Senators Ernst and Senator Grassley, we urge the support of the House-passed bipartisan age-out protections in the National Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year 2023. We also call for the Congressional delegation's support for America's CHILDREN act.

The University of Iowa is home and a safe space to the children of these long-term non-immigrant visa holders in the United States. These documented dreamers are a part of our story as students, and yours as Americans. United States as a nation has been widely known as the country of immigrants that has grown and developed over the years by accepting, accommodating, and encouraging immigrants. By providing the documented dreamers with a path to citizenship, we will further be enhancing this take.

Due to the immigration laws of this country, these documented dreamers are facing multiple hardships including but not limited to deportation. Today, the United States Congress has an opportunity to support these children. Bipartisan America's CHILDREN Act Creates a process for individuals to apply for permanent residency if they were brought to the United States as the children of visa Holders, maintained legal status for 10 years, and graduated from college. A House-passed amendment to the NDAA would amend the Child Status Protection Act to create

age-out protections. Until this bill becomes law, urgent action is required to prevent the current as well as future deportation of documented dreamers.

A fact sheet as well as the press release from the Council on National Security and Immigration is attached to this Resolution.

*Resolved*, this message of support shall be sent to

1. **The United States Congressional Delegation for Iowa**, namely:

- A. The Honorable Ashley Hinson, United States Congresswoman
- B. The Honorable Mariannette Miller-Meeks, United States Congresswoman
- C. The Honorable Zach Nunn, United States Congressman-elect
- D. The Honorable Randy Feenstra, United States Congressman
- E. The Honorable Joni Ernst, United States Senator
- F. The Honorable Charles Grassley, United States Senator

2. **The Iowa State Legislators representing Johnson County – 2023**, namely:

- A. The Honorable Janice Weiner, Iowa State Senator-elect
- B. The Honorable Zach Wahls, Iowa State Senator
- C. The Honorable Kevin Kinney, Iowa State Senator
- D. The Honorable Heather Hora, Iowa State Representative-elect
- E. The Honorable Dave Jacoby, Iowa State Representative
- F. The Honorable Elinor Levin, Iowa State Representative-elect
- G. The Honorable Amy Nielsen, Iowa State Representative
- H. The Honorable Brad Sherman, Iowa State Representative-elect
- I. The Honorable Adam Zabner, Iowa State Representative-elect

3. **The Iowa City City Council members**, namely:

- A. The Honorable Bruce Teague, Iowa City City Council Mayor

- B. The Honorable Megan Alter, Iowa City City Council Mayor Pro Tem
  - C. The Honorable Laura Bergus, Iowa City City Council Member
  - D. The Honorable Shawn Harmsen, Iowa City City Council Member
  - E. The Honorable Pauline Taylor, Iowa City City Council Member
  - F. The Honorable John Thomas, Iowa City City Council Member
4. President of the University of Iowa, Barbara. J. Wilson, [barbara-wilson@uiowa.edu](mailto:barbara-wilson@uiowa.edu)
  5. Executive Vice President and Provost, Kevin. C. Kregal, [kevin-kregal@uiowa.edu](mailto:kevin-kregal@uiowa.edu)
  6. Associate Vice President and Dean of Students, Angie Reams, [angela-reams@uiowa.edu](mailto:angela-reams@uiowa.edu)
  7. Associate Dean and Executive Director, William. R. Nelson, [william-nelson@uiowa.edu](mailto:william-nelson@uiowa.edu)
  8. Associate Dean – Accountability and Care, Angela Ibrahim-Olein, [angela-ibrahim-olein@uiowa.edu](mailto:angela-ibrahim-olein@uiowa.edu)
  9. Assistant Dean and Director – Leadership and Engagement, Jamarco Clark, [jamarco-clark@uiowa.edu](mailto:jamarco-clark@uiowa.edu)
  10. Assistant Dean – Wellbeing and Basic Needs, Tanya Villhauer, [tanya-villhauer@uiowa.edu](mailto:tanya-villhauer@uiowa.edu)

**Section 4. Enactment Clause**

**Therefore**, this will not be enacted by the Undergraduate Student Government upon the signature of the USG President.

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*Alexis Carfrae*

**Speaker of the Senate**  
Alexis Carfrae

*I hereby attest and certify that this resolution originated from the 2022-2023 Student Senate Session.*

APPROVED on 11/29/22, by

*Patrick Johnson*

**USG President**  
Patrick Johnson



*Fact Sheet*

## **Please Ensure Senate Inclusion of Bipartisan NDAA Provision passed by the House to Protect Children from Aging Out**

### **The Imperative to Protect Children from Aging Out of Our Immigration System**

Maintaining our nation's competitive advantage in recruiting and retaining top talent is essential to military readiness and national security. It is estimated that there are more than 200,000 children living in the United States as dependents of long-term nonimmigrant visa holders at risk of losing their status. These individuals grow up in the United States, attend American schools, and are educated in American universities. Sadly, our nation is currently at risk of losing such talent due to gaps in our immigration laws. This amendment would close such gaps.

### **Gaps in Our Immigration Laws**

Children can remain in dependent status on a parent's employment-based nonimmigrant visa until they turn 21. Many are also listed as dependents on a parent's green card application. However, applicants must be considered a child under our immigration laws to be eligible for a green card as a dependent.

Due to decades long backlogs and problems with the Child Status Protection Act, many of these young adults age out before a visa number for a green card finally becomes available. As a result, they lose their status *and* their opportunity to obtain a green card. Fixing this has broad bipartisan support and the amendment is a narrower version of H.R. 4331/S. 2753 (*Senate bill is cosponsored by Senators Rand Paul, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Murkowski, and Collins*).

### **Impact on our National Security**

When long-term dependents are forced to leave, it is a loss to America's communities and employers. Despite being educated in our universities, these children must take their skills and talent to our global competitors.

These gaps also prevent American companies from attracting and retaining critical talent in the U.S. Many immigrants have left the United States for countries with less burdensome immigration policies, often citing their children aging out as a factor in their departure.

The House G.O.P. China Task Force Report from 2020 noted the U.S. "needs to continue to attract the best and brightest STEM talent from around the world, or risk falling behind in the global race for talent and losing its competitive advantage in innovation." We cannot maintain our competitive edge on the world stage unless we commit to do better by such individuals and their families.

### **This amendment would provide certainty and stability for such children by—**

- **Fixing gaps in the Child Status Protection Act.** This amendment prevents children listed on their parent's green card applications from aging out before a visa number becomes available. It also allows children stuck in the backlog to remain on their parent's nonimmigrant status and work until a number becomes available.
- **Additional protections for the long-term dependents.** This amendment preserves the opportunity for long term dependents of employment-based nonimmigrants to remain on their parent's green card application even after they turn 21 and allow them to remain on their parent's nonimmigrant status and work. It also helps long-term dependents who have already aged out from falling through the cracks.

## **More Background on Bipartisan Amendment to Protect Children from Aging Out**

Over 200,000 children and young adults are living in the United States as dependents of employment-based nonimmigrant visa holders (such as H-1B, L-1, E-1, and E-2 workers). These individuals have grown up in the United States, attended American schools, and attend American universities.

These children can remain in dependent status on a parent's employment-based nonimmigrant visa until they turn 21. Many are also listed as dependents on a parent's green card application. However, applicants must be considered a child under our immigration laws to be eligible for a green card as a dependent. Sadly, due to decades long backlogs and problems with the Child Status Protection Act, many of these young adults age out before a visa number for a green card finally becomes available. As a result, they lose their temporary status *and* their opportunity to obtain a green card.

While most young adults celebrate turning 21, dependents of long-term employment-based nonimmigrants bear a heavy burden. They must obtain another status or leave behind their families—and the only country they have ever known—to return to their country of birth.

### **About the Amendment**

This Amendment aims to prevent these children from aging out of immigration status by fixing gaps in our immigration laws. It is also based on the bipartisan *America's Children Act (HR 4331/S. 2753 - bill cosponsored by Senators Rand Paul, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Murkowski, and Collins)*. Specifically, the Amendment:

#### **Age Out Protections for Dependent Children on Green Card Applications.**

- Fixes the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA) to allow a child's age to be frozen based on when a parent's first employment based green card application was initiated
- Fixes the CSPA to protect children who have been here for an aggregate of eight years as a dependent of an employment-based nonimmigrant before the age of 21 by allowing them to be considered a child on a green card application filed by their parents

#### **Age Out Protections for Nonimmigrant Dependent Children.**

- Protects children who are listed on their parent's green card application by allowing them to remain as a dependent on their parent's employment based nonimmigrant visa until a visa number for their parent's green card becomes available
- Protects children who have been here for an aggregate of eight years before the age of 21 as a dependent of an employment-based nonimmigrant by allowing them to remain dependents on their parents' nonimmigrant visa until they can find another status
- Gives those covered by age out protections for nonimmigrant dependent children employment authorization

**Priority Date.** Makes conforming changes to ensure that the eligibility date for a visa number is based on when a green card application is first initiated.





*CNSI: Amendment to Protect Documented Dreamers Good for National Security*



# CNSI: Amendment to Protect Documented Dreamers Good for National Security

Press Release

July 28, 2022

## For Immediate Release

Contact: Anna Kumar  
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**Washington, D.C.** — Council on National Security and Immigration (CNSI) Leaders released the following statement following a [Heritage Foundation blog](#), opposing an [amendment](#) to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) protecting Documented Dreamers. The amendment to the NDAA removes the age restriction of dependents of people who are in the green card backlog or on long-term nonimmigrant visas – known as Documented Dreamers – and allows them to continue to live their lives in America.

“As we tackle immigration problems in America, we must ensure we are supporting common-sense policies that allow the children of high-skilled immigrants — children who were raised and educated in the U.S. and are otherwise eligible — the ability to continue to live and work in this country. These individuals entered the U.S. lawfully and are often waiting on legally filed green card applications. Many of them are completing or have completed a degree and strive to enter the U.S. workforce.

“Removing the age restriction will help ensure high-skilled workers stay in America, as opposed to choosing another country that may not align with our values, such as China. Keeping these individuals in the U.S. bolsters our national security and helps ensure we retain immigrants who embody the American spirit. Calling for these workers to be excluded makes America less secure and is not consistent with conservative principles.

“It is also imperative we continue to fix common-sense problems in our immigration system, while simultaneously working to improve border security. These two things are not mutually exclusive and protecting the children of long-term visa holders will not incentivize unlawful immigration.”

The following leaders signed this statement: Ross Ashley, Randy Beardsworth, Barbara Comstock, Marc Frey, Lynden Melmed, Robert Mocny, Ozzie Nelson, Elizabeth Neumann, Paul Rosenzweig, Margaret Stock and Jim Williams. You can read their bios [here](#).

*Leaders of CNSI speak and act solely in their individual capacities, and their views should not be attributed to any organization with which they are affiliated.*

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