

AMERICA NEEDS A DREAM

By Mike J. Quinn



A closer look at the DREAM Act

and what it means to America

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Special Acknowledgement goes to [Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez](#) the Father of the DREAM Act.

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The Dream

A little history

[The Dream Act](#) has been circulating Congress in one form or another ever since Representative Luis Gutiérrez introduced a bill entitled "[Immigrant Children's Educational Advancement and Dropout Prevention Act of 2001](#)" or H.R.1582. It didn't have a catchy Acronym like the DREAM Act, but it was a realistic attempt to get some kind of immigration help for students in the decades after [Reagan's landmark immigration reform bill](#) in 1986. What President Reagan was able to pass through Congress was itself a small part of the comprehensive immigration reforms being batted around Congress during the previous two decades. We have a long history of ignoring much needed legislation for one of our largest economic engines. The DREAM Act would never see any promise the entire time from 2001-2006 that the Senate was controlled by the Republicans. In 2007, when the Democrats had the majority, it was brought up again, but failed to get the majority it needed to pass, showing us that Republicans weren't the only ones stalling immigration reform.

In 2008, after failing several times to get the backing of Congress, Republican Kay Bailey Hutchison, announced she would work with the authors of the DREAM Act to add some language that would make it more palatable for Republicans to vote for, even though it had already been sponsored and revised by both parties for over six years. This [DREAM Act \(v2.0\)](#) was then reintroduced to Congress, having been trimmed again by Republican lawmakers, putting their conservative positions on it by making it more restrictive on who is eligible and

excluding some of the benefits.

The DREAM Act v2.0 still failed to pass a vote in 2009 despite the fact that both Republicans and Democrats were highly involved in it's revision.

Back to the drawing board it went and Republicans got to water it down some more and make it even *more* exclusive by adding background checks, biometric data, listing specific crimes that would make some candidates ineligible, and more.

Surely this [Dream Act](#) (v3.0) would sail through Congress.

Wrong again. But the backers of the bill refused to let it die, and as the [Dream Act went through its most recent changes in 2011](#), it had been stripped of many of the benefits that had been designed to encourage the best and brightest of our undocumented citizens to stay and participate in making this country better and safer.

As we all know, this latest version of the DREAM Act (v 4.0) is still too generous for the Republicans to sign off on. It appears they are proving to be an increasingly negative obstacle to getting any bill through Congress that will legalize even the cream of the crop of our currently undocumented citizens. (As a side note, in 1798 the Republican Party was among the first class of people to be [purposely excluded in our first immigration laws](#).)

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Where is the DREAM today?

President Obama's recent change in immigration policy for DREAM Act eligible students is a great temporary stop-gap, buying us more time to pass an actual law that puts into place the policies and procedures to give our young citizens a real shot at becoming what they already are; US citizens. We are not done fighting for the DREAM, we have only been given a short reprieve.

Just before this recent announcement, there have been rumors of a new DREAM Act being developed by Republican Marco Rubio. As of this writing he hasn't provided any details yet, but his new DREAM Act will have one thing that the other three versions didn't: a Republican author.

But what about the Democrats? Why would this version of the DREAM Act pass through

Congress when theirs didn't? Perhaps having a resentful Democratic veto is exactly what the Republicans are hoping for. Then they will be able to blame the Democrats for this stalemate, conveniently forgetting all of their own previous acts of legislative sabotage.

The Democrats aren't completely blameless for this impasse either. They recently held the majority in the Senate, but failed to get the DREAM Act through Congress. Whether you prefer the Republicans or the Democrats to shoulder most of the blame, one thing is for certain: any version of the DREAM Act conjured up by the Republicans will undoubtedly leave the immigrant as far from legal citizenship as possible. They have publicly stated as much with Romney's often repeated declaration to veto any immigration bill that would offer citizenship to undocumented immigrants.

The Republicans know they have done a great job of enflaming the Latino population. [They cannot provide a path for undocumented immigrants to receive citizenship](#), even ten years from now, for fear the Latino voters will long remember the hardship they had to endure because of their shameful conservative attitudes and [harsh anti-immigrant positions](#). New Latino voters will become a large and powerful anti-Republican force if given the chance to vote.

The DREAM Act as it stands right now has been crafted by both Democrats and Republicans. If that won't help it pass through Congress, it stands to reason nothing will. Evidence of this position is clear from recent comments of some Republicans who are still threaten to not support any version of the DREAM Act.

I urge you to read the article below on the [DREAM Act](#) and what it really says about the bill, in its latest iteration. How could any sane person see this as a gift that will be used by masses of undeserving people? It is so restrictive and sets the bar so high for those to qualify and *still* doesn't guarantee anyone citizenship-- just the opportunity to apply for it. These will be smart, ambitious, strong, sacrificing people of high moral character who show a high probability for positive social and economical growth. Who wouldn't want these fine young people to be a part of their nation?

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Why we need this DREAM

We need a way to undo some of the damage that ignoring our immigration system has done to our country. We need a policy that [encourages foreign investment](#). We need a way to help us to [remain competitive in the world](#) market, as well as [rebuild our damaged economy](#).

Today, hi-tech entrepreneurs, college grads and military personnel who are not citizens of this country have no real incentive to [help make this country better](#). When they get their final notice to leave the country, they will inevitably return to where they came from and work to make those countries stronger and more competitive.

Sometimes what we need are for some things not to happen. What we don't need are fifty different immigration policies coming from fifty different states. We are seeing firsthand the negative consequences of imposing draconian measures on our police force and creating mini fascist republics: [Crops are being left to rot in the fields](#); [schools are reporting drops in attendance](#); crimes are going unreported; small businesses are leaving; and the local economies have reported less customers to purchase goods.

We don't need embarrassing international scenes such as the huge Mercedes-Benz fiasco. Alabama spent considerable time and resources lobbying Mercedes-Benz to put a manufacturing plant in their state, but thanks to their new immigration laws, they [arrested one of the company's executives while they were driving to work one day](#). This is no model for promoting foreign investment in our country, nor is it an example of how to lead our weak economy to a speedy recovery.

We also don't need a diluted, political policy whose main purpose does not [get this country the things it DOES need](#). A DREAM Act Lite plan sounds like a purely political move. It is predicted to target and exclude any new Democrats into the voting community. If that proves to be true, then the Democrats will have no incentive to vote for a Republican-only authored bill. The main objective of doing something positive is not to look at this idea in political terms. Instead we should strive as a society to distance ourselves as far from a political decision as possible, keeping only our country's and our citizen's best interests at heart.

Legal permission to be in this country for undocumented immigrants is a [fine first step, but an incomplete idea](#). It is imperfect in its basic design for either of the two categories of people this act is supposedly to benefit: foreign students and foreign US military servicemen. Each of these groups of immigrants has particular needs if they are going to become an asset to our country and the communities where they will live. [Making this bill work for the immigrants should also make it good for us as a nation](#).

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Military Personnel

We have invited immigrants to help us fight in our military [since the inception of our country](#). This policy has helped us in times of need, and could continue to do so for the foreseeable future. It also introduces the possibility of new problems if we don't do it right. We must balance our needs as a nation, with the immigrants needs as a person. A mutual benefit would greatly reduce the chance of either side from feeling cheated and possibly not honoring their end of the bargain.

If someone is willing to put their life on the line to defend this country, then not offering them citizenship and not allowing them to be a part of the democratic process for which they made that sacrifice is both morally reprehensible and potentially dangerous. Their sacrifice is a demonstration of their commitment to us, and our good faith return of appreciation for this should demonstrate the respect of a grateful nation. No one who has served in the armed services of the United States of America should be denied *any* of the benefits and responsibilities of this country. Ask any veteran.

The real dangers for our Military as well as our immigrants have as much to do with honor and gratitude as it does the actual end product-- the soldier. If we are not willing to follow through with our commitment to them, what would prevent them from reneging on their commitment to us? A half-committed soldier is not the person anyone would want to be out on patrol with. Our men and women need to trust 100% that the person next to them is going to be there when the stuff hits the fan.

Having non-citizens in our military can easily be viewed as in direct conflict of interest with our national security. Which country will that person side with if we should go to war in their home country? We have only to look toward Iraq and Afghanistan to see current examples of how our military is attacked while working with soldiers of “friendly” countries.

- . Will they be effective in their mission knowing that soon they will be sent home as civilians and have to face their neighbors for the actions they performed while their allegiances were given to a foreign country?
- . Will they be able to kill if needed, knowing they might be related to, or grew up with the person in the vehicle they just blew up?
- . Will they be able to go back home and forget all the things we made them do to their fellow countrymen?
- . Will their friends and neighbors understand and forgive them?

It is because of these possible conflicts of interest, as well as having a mutually beneficial agreement, that all military personnel should be citizens on the day they graduate basic training. Anything less does neither the US, nor our citizen soldiers any good. [It does even less for the immigrant](#).

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Students

The United States' college and university system [attracts some of the best students](#) from all over the world. A US degree is often built on cutting edge information developed in this country and is a [highly sought after commodity](#).

Often students will intern at companies within their fields of study, gaining practical experience in addition to their studies. Many Universities also have technological or research agreements with industries. This marriage of education and experience makes them exceptional candidates for the workforce and creates some of the most sought after graduates in the world.

We also have a vibrant community of investors who are always looking for the next big thing. Large complexes of specialized industries are often set up near colleges and universities that are known for excellence in a specific field, making access to graduates easy. A prime example of this is Stanford University. It is no coincidence that Silicon Valley rose up near it's campus. Hewlett Packard, Apple Computers, Google, and more were started by Stanford students in dorm rooms at school and garages in nearby Palo Alto. Sand Hill Road, which runs right along one side of Stanford University, is famous for it's venture capitol community.

Combine education and investment into localized areas around the country and we have created industry specific ecosystems built to facilitate product and company creation that are second to none in the world, which gives us our current edge in the global marketplace. Should we develop a break in any part of our innovation life cycle, our economy as well as our leadership role in the world could change just as quickly as those large corporate giants we have witnessed who made poor decisions or were slow to react to a changing market, and later either died off or became just shadows of their former selves.

If we make it a priority to send these educated and talented people back home, investors will be reluctant to pump money into a future product or company, knowing all of their investment in time and money could be going back home with them. This will stifle investment and product creation, slow job creation, and our economy will suffer. [Add to this misery the creation of a highly competent competitor in another nation](#), and the recipe for economic success is dubious. Any break in the talent, infrastructure, money or management lifecycle could signal the

beginning of the end for the United States as we currently know it. Add to this the fact that other countries are trying to replicate our tightly knit ecosystems in order to compete with us, or take advantages of scale and cost in overseas nations and we don't have to do very much, if anything, to lose our place in the world.

Since we are the ones who trained the student and gave them access to our considerable knowledge base and investment resources, shouldn't we be the ones who [benefit from this ecosystem](#) as well?

[If taking in immigrants is one of our national heritages, college graduates could be considered the cream of the crop. How could we not want them?](#)

Some people have argued that we should hire only Americans and send the immigrants back home. Are we so afraid of internal competition that we will purposely reduce our talent pool at the expense of raising our competitor's? If so, we might as well raise a flag of surrender right now. Our American can-do attitude got us where we are today, and if we are to stay ahead of the global competition, [we will need to step up our competitive game, not step it down.](#)

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What about us?

Lastly, we have known for years that as our [baby boomers age out of the workforce](#), we will not have the numbers of people to replace them, but thanks to the banking crisis, a lot of them will likely have to stay in the workforce longer. Unfortunately, aging workers don't compete very well with energetic, inexperienced (and underpaid) employees. While a lot of boomers will wish to stay employed, they may not have a choice. This could create multiple crises in many industries and negatively impact our economy as a whole.

The Social Security system will soon be inundated with increasing numbers of people taking out of the system much more than they will be putting in.

Retiring health care workers will leave huge shortages of trained doctors and staff as our population bubble retires, lives longer, and needs more medical attention than at any other time in history.

Many other industries will experience crises as well.

As supply and demand for skills and services become skewed, what we think will be enough for retirement today could become inadequate for our needs in the next ten to twenty years without a large supply of highly trained people to take our places. College graduates, with their whole lives ahead of them, could be caring for us and paying into a social security system decades before they will receive any benefits. With our aging baby boomer's life expectancy being higher than in any other time in history, imported labor could become our lifeblood. We have always needed immigrants to give us a more opulent lifestyle than we otherwise could have afforded. We need them now and we will be glad they are here tomorrow as long as we don't chase them away today.

This new and fifth version of the DREAM Act will be just a political ploy to deny new political competition into society. It is very political, has the potential to harm our country, and could set us up for further problems in the years to come.

This new DREAM Act is not the idea we should rally around to bring this country together over this contentious issue, rather, it should be the idea we need to rally around to *defeat* in order to ensure our country has the funding and the manpower to lift ourselves out of our weak economy.

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What would a well designed DREAM Act do for America?

It [would keep the best and brightest immigrant students](#) within our country and give them an incentive to become a part of the machine that fuels our economy.

- . It would incentivize company creation within our borders instead of telling our immigrant graduates to go back home and create competition in other countries.
- . It would ensure that our military was OUR military.
- . It would increase our tax and revenue streams with young, high income earning college grads and prosperous new companies.
- . It would increase our competitive edge against up and coming technological countries.

- . It would ensure our aging citizen population would have adequate medical care.
- It would reduce the costs associated with scarcity of providers.
- . It would keep the Social Security system viable with more workers paying into the system.

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In Conclusion

Let us not forget that the DREAM Act is now, and has always been a compromise. Citizenship for all the people who are effectively US citizens right now is what we really need. These undocumented immigrants are already here, working, creating jobs and propping up our straining economy with inexpensive products and services that help our shrinking dollar go further than it otherwise would. They are also fighting by our side, and paying the ultimate sacrifice to help us defend freedom in countries around the globe.

With any DREAM Act we sacrifice most of the hardworking, day-in, day-out, working-class immigrants, in order to push through legislation that will help the few who are fighting for our country, or are the best educated. Let us not forget that with this benefit also comes the responsibility and obligation to make our country better. Anything less than this will not achieve a positive result for our country or our citizens, and after all, [isn't that what we should be focusing on](#)-- politics be damned?

After reading the article below, I urge you to [let Congress know how you feel](#).

And let's not forget about the [House of Representatives](#).

Any logical person would conclude that if both Democrats and Republicans can't pass laws our country needs with eleven years of trying, we cannot look to them for the leadership we elected them for.

What happens when our bosses think we are no longer competent to do our jobs?

We get fired.

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Congress, you are on notice

The people of the United States have heard enough excuses and waited way too long for a solution to our immigration disaster. Present an immigration bill to the President that [is good for the country](#), as well as the immigrant, or you will not be invited back for another term. The people who will be filling your current positions will know that the same fate will apply to them, but instead of having eleven years to get something done, they will have just one term, or the rest of their current term.

- . We need our economy to run more efficiently.
- . We need healthcare that is affordable for all.
- . We need all of our citizens to be legal and accounted for.

And above all,

- . We need people in our government who can play nicely with each other and help solve our nations problems.

Jokers, posers and frauds need not apply.

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[Mike J. Quinn](#) is an American citizen with a multinational family. He has also managed restaurants for over 25 years and worked with immigrants from many different nations, and with many different immigration statuses. He has been working to unify his family in the United States for over six years.

He blogs about immigration at [South of the Border Book](#), and is the Author of “[The Dishwasher’s Son](#)” an upcoming novel about an American teenager and local Arizona Minuteman who accidentally gets deported along with some of his coworkers when the restaurant he works in gets raided by ICE. Now in Mexico and without a valid ID, he must sneak back into his own country using many different, and unsuccessful methods. Along the way he must learn to deal with the Mexican heritage he has denied his whole life. Will he ever get back home, or is he destined to live as an illegal American in Mexico?

DREAM Act background http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/DREAM_Act

DREAM Act text <http://www.dreamactivist.org/text-of-dream-act-legislation/>

House of Representatives <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

Senators http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

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DREAM Act Debate References

Talking about the DREAM Act with authority.

With so much misinformation going around these days, whether by uninformed friends or anti-immigrant organizations parading as rational concerned "Think Tanks," we really owe it to ourselves to understand fully the arguments assaulting the DREAM Act and their logical defenses. Then we are more able to defend an issue that needs more allies in order

to become the undisputed will of the people.

When encountering these arguments, there will be two (generally) distinct people on the other side of the debate.

- [An ultra-conservative who hates immigrants](#) and wants to return to an all-white dominated America.
- Someone who has listened to a few of the arguments the ultra-conservatives have expressed and decided they sounded reasonable.

When talking to the second group of people, be kind and courteous. They may change their positions when confronted with more logical and humanitarian arguments. When talking with the first group, you will know them by their stubborn insistence that, even in the face of superior logic and more realistic statistics, they will still hold fast to their dogma. It is my belief (and experience) that you will not change their minds and you should just let them be. Your life will be less aggravated and frustrating. Historically what they really want is to deny civil rights to people of color. For more information, and a really good history of immigration, read [They Take Our Jobs!: And 20 Other Myths about Immigration](#) by Aviva Chomsky.

There is a saying: "The only person dumber than someone who thinks they know it all, is the person who is arguing with them."

Good luck, and persevere.

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Logical arguments for the good of the DREAM Act.

These are some of the many reasons America would benefit by passing this bill.

- Educated immigrants will add much needed tax revenues for our country.
- [Immigrants created 28% of all new firms last year](#), creating much needed jobs.
- Educated immigrants add to the consumer base, buying houses, cars and helping to support our economy.
- Educated immigrants will be young and able to [contribute to the social security system](#) for years after the [baby boomers have cleaned it out](#).
- Educated immigrants often have ties to their mother countries making them ideal candidates for assisting US companies in global markets.
- Veterans have learned to work well with others and respect leadership.
- Veterans often learn valuable trades and gain excellent experience, becoming great employees, neighbors and friends.

- Veterans are often experts in using weapons so you should be very polite to them. (Just kidding. I wanted to see if anyone was still reading :) I'm not kidding about the "being polite" part though. Veterans earned our respect and we owe them a debt of gratitude for putting their lives on the line so we can have the freedoms we enjoy every day.

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Ultra-conservative arguments from one of their websites.

These [people don't even want to see Marco Rubio's version of the DREAM Act](#). That's what I call ULTRA conservative. You will know you found one when you see they are all very similar, if not outright copies of one another. This is the type of dogma the GOP was spouting when running for the nomination of the Republican party to face President Obama in our national election. This is the advice Romney was following. Also, notice the insistent use of the term "illegal alien" in all of their references to DREAM Act candidates and immigrants as a whole. This is a dead give-away that hate is at the bottom of their message, 24X7. These people have a [They Take Our Jobs!: And 20 Other Myths about Immigration](#) ">long history of trying to keep the seat of power in the hands of white people like themselves. I know I talked earlier about just walking away from these people, but if you have nothing else to do and you want to have a little fun . . .

- [A\) The Rubio DREAM Act rewards those who have violated our immigration laws. Rubio's DREAM Act, like the Democrats' bill, rewards people who violated our immigration laws through their children.](#)
- [B\) The inevitable result will be millions more people bringing their children into the U.S. illegally](#)
- [C\) \(or even sending them to the U.S. by themselves\)](#)
- [D\) in the expectation that they too will be rewarded.](#)
- [E\) The Rubio DREAM Act will likely lead to chain migration](#)—the very reason Rubio opposed the 2010 DREAM Act. Although Rubio has not disseminated specific legislative language, he has suggested that — under his bill — DREAM Act beneficiaries would be

precluded from sponsoring their parents and other family members to live legally in the U.S. However, it is highly questionable whether legislation that prevents DREAM Act beneficiaries from sponsoring their relatives is constitutional. Under the Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution all citizens must be treated equally. Thus, once DREAM Act beneficiaries become citizens, Rubio's DREAM Act would lead to eventual legal status for a broad range of relatives, whether they reside in or outside of the United States.

- [F\) Rubio's Current Attempt to Resurrect the DREAM Act is the 2012 version of the "Grand Bargain."](#) In 2007, Democratic and Republican leaders went behind closed doors and emerged with what they described as the "Grand Bargain" on amnesty and attempted to force-feed the legislation to Members of Congress and the American public.
- [G\) Rubio's DREAM Act will likely be expanded through the amendment process.](#) Illegal alien advocates and their supporters in Congress have repeatedly indicated that they will not be satisfied with a watered-down version of the DREAM Act. It is possible, even likely, that Rubio's version of the DREAM Act would be expanded significantly through the amendment process before a final vote in the Democratic controlled Senate.
- [H\) Amnesty for illegal aliens will not win Republicans more Hispanic votes.](#) Hispanic voters consistently rank immigration far below basic bread and butter issues on their list of priorities. Hispanic voters, like other voters, are looking for viable plans to improve the economy, put Americans back to work, and close government deficits. However, amnesties, like the DREAM Act, will hurt Republicans—especially with independents.
- [I\) Rubio's DREAM Act will not impress voters who want amnesty.](#)
- [J\) The small segment of the electorate that is likely to base their votes on amnesty for illegal aliens is unlikely to be impressed by a watered down version of the DREAM Act when the other party is offering the unadulterated version.](#)

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1. It rewards undocumented aliens

Everyone who qualifies for the DREAM Act will have come to the US as a minor. They were brought here as children without any choice. The benefits of this bill are not available to every child that came across the border with their family. They have to be smart, studious, hard working, goal oriented, or be willing to put their life on the line for the privilege of being allowed the privilege to apply for a green card. Citizenship will have to

be applied for later and they will have to qualify for that all over again. **So basically it rewards an immigrant child who came into this country before the age of 15, and applied for the DREAM Act protection within 1 year of graduation of High School and then they have 6 years to complete a 2 year college degree or join the military, be of good moral character, pass a background check, and have a medical examination to check for contagious diseases. Yeah, it rewards them. Everyone else by the way: their parents; brothers; sisters; grandparents; friends; and neighbors, they get thrown under the bus so the few DREAMERS can be “rewarded.”**

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2. It encourages more illegal immigration

This bill screens immigrants heavily for eligibility and only the best of the best will qualify. Wouldn't that be a huge waste of time to come here, learn English, and study for years and still not become eligible? Sounds more like a disincentive. Becoming eligible will take hard work and sacrifice. No one will be guaranteed acceptance, and only the immigrants who are already on this path will be encouraged to do even better. If we were to screen for the best immigrants to let into our society, wouldn't this be a great way to do it?

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3. It will cost billions in tax dollars to us taxpayers

Where in Carmen San Diego did you come up with that? Are you trying to use the same old, exaggerated statistics that are currently being applied towards low-income, low educated immigrants? Are the DREAM Act recipients and all the others that don't qualify the same to you? Are you even paying attention in this conversation, or are you just spouting off conservative dogma? There is NO study that shows DREAM Act recipients

will cost American taxpayers any money at all. In fact, studies have shown that we will need these new, young immigrants will [help to keep our institutions from becoming insolvent](#) as our Baby Boomers retire and begin to draw on the social security system they have been paying into their whole lives.

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4. Takes away education spots for American students

It has always been my understanding that the college and university system has been operating on a competitive basis where you must apply for the ability to attend any particular school and you are selected based upon your academic and social qualifications. I myself have benefited and been passed over by these same rules. No university selects students by virtue of their national origin. Universities are usually incentivized to pick the students with the best chances of becoming high donating alumnus. Every year students are disappointed they didn't get accepted at some universities, but then celebrate their fortunes with the ones they did. This is life. Don't blame your lack of opportunities on anyone else but yourself.

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5. It makes it more difficult for citizens to obtain tuition assistance

Tuition assistance is a tough process for anyone to apply for. This is often in the form of a loan, although scholarships are also available. Loans we can all agree will be based on the appearance of your ability to pay back the funds you borrowed. The last time I applied for a loan, national origin was not a criteria they even asked about, although not being a citizen

could make a bank or lender concerned you may take your education and skip out on your loan when you return to your home country. This would make being an immigrant a negative aspect to your loan application.

Scholarships are like contests. You audition or submit your application and the best applicant or greatest talent is selected. This is not an American vs. immigrant contest. Work hard, get good grades, work for charity, get involved in sports or some other extra-curricular activity, and you will be difficult to beat. Blaming immigrants you didn't get a scholarship will make you look weak, and for good reason.

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6. Puts additional strain on the country since the students could eventually petition for their relatives to get residency

Does this mean they will automatically be granted their petitions? Aren't there already rules, regulations, and large queues sometimes taking decades to get an appointment for an interview? If you have a problem with those systems, you need to take that up with someone in those departments some other time; we should really stick to the issues that are related to the DREAM Act. Relative visas are not even involved in this process and are a completely separate issue.

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7. Service could be the only way to gain residency for the underprivileged

So what is your point here? Hasn't this also applied to American citizens forever? Is your point that poor people have to sacrifice more than rich people? That's not a function of immigration. That unfortunately is a matter of fact that has dogged civilization forever, our citizens included. All military applicants are not guaranteed accepted. There are any number of reasons someone may be rejected by the military. If someone gets accepted, they begin a long process of training and service before returning to civilian life. If someone is rejected, they will have to make other plans for their lives. This is the same for everyone.

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8. When they exit the military, the underprivileged will be eligible for huge benefits at the cost of the US taxpayers

And your point is? This assumes that the immigrant, or any veteran for that matter, did not learn a skill they could apply to their civilian life. Many such people go back to school and earn a degree. Others have or develop connections in companies or trades. Many people lead successful lives upon their completion of their military service. Surely you can't be talking about them.

Some military veterans are mentally or physically scarred, and you should not be picking on these poor souls unless you wish to look like the scourge of the earth yourself. These people need our compassion, our generosity, our goodwill, and our patience. They deserve it. They stood in places for us that we were fortunate not to have stood ourselves. They have done things that we are fortunate not to have done. They have suffered and are suffering still from things you and I could not even imagine. You would be much more successful at chipping away at my character, than to even attempt to assail theirs. I for one will not tolerate anyone picking on these fine upstanding people. They have fought for me and it's the least I can do to repay the debt I owe them, by standing up to those among us who would try to strike at their honor or dignity.

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9. The DREAM Act is amnesty

[Read the DREAM Act conditions for eligibility right now](#) and tell me what you think about this bill is amnesty. That statement reeks of ignorance and could not possibly be further from the truth. And as for Amnesty-- to forgive someone for something that is not his or her fault, is not a sin. If you want my honest opinion, there are other words in the dictionary much more offensive than amnesty: arrogance, ignorance, bigotry, uncompromising, prejudice, insulting, degrading, dishonoring, bullying, racist, liar, persecution, holocaust, ethnic cleansing. . . I'd support amnesty before I'd support any of the others.

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10. They will take jobs away from Americans

Very few people have their jobs taken away from them that weren't going to lose them anyway. Do you mean immigrants will compete in the job market with citizens? Yep, they will, and they will be competing with people and organizations outside the country. We are in a global marketplace and with the Baby Boomers retiring in great numbers, and their life expectancy is predicted to rise with our improving medical system, [we will actually need greater numbers of people than we currently have](#) to replace our aging workforce.

Have you ever applied for a job? You filled out an application, built a resume, distributed it to many employers and tried to sing the best song you could in order to wow your future boss. You are competing on talent, education, experience, communication and pay scale. Being deficient in any one of these could knock you out of the game. It's hard. There's a lot of competition out there, and many people are accepting less than what they're used to receiving, and often accepting positions they are overqualified for. Big fish are swimming in smaller pools. If that's what it takes, then that's what it takes and there's nothing you or I

can do about it short of ruining democracy and free enterprise and killing what little competitive edge we have in the world. Force an employer to take a citizen over an immigrant, force him to pay more, and watch his cost of goods and services drown out his profit. Raising his prices cuts him out of the market. Add to this scenario, a less than worthy employee who knows he has his job guaranteed because his employer has to take him, his productivity dives through the floor. He has no incentive to produce. He gets paid no matter what. What odds do you give that employer to stay in the market much longer? When he goes out of business, that lifeless employee along with all the others that worked there are on the open job market once again, looking for another company to be forced to take them, and compounding the problem. What kind of a society is this called again? Isn't Democracy and a free market system directly opposed to this?

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12. They still broke the law. What about illegal don't you understand?

First off, "[Entering Without Inspection](#)," or overstaying your visa, the two ways to get into this country illegally, are minor civil offenses. They are like traffic tickets. Secondly, they were minor children who followed their families into this country, or didn't know how to take care of maintaining their paperwork all by themselves. If a parent pushing a stroller gets busted for shoplifting a package of diapers, do we prosecute the baby too? They were with their parent, but the baby doesn't get into trouble. Why? Because it wasn't their fault and we are not stupid.

And here's the big kicker. There has been free movement between Mexico and the US until 1924. There was even a railroad built to facilitate travel each way across the border. The Immigration Act of 1924 placed numerical limits on immigrants from various countries, and excluding altogether many Asian countries. Mexico was allowed to bring in a mathematical percentage of immigrants per year, but even that was later reduced to 150,000. This law created the Border Patrol, and a process for Deportation solely for being inside the US without having paperwork. With a stroke of the pen we created "illegal immigrants." With over two centuries of crossing back and forth to work in the fields in the US and returning home after harvest season, we now created a permanent body of workers

who had no rights. This is the illegal you are talking about? The one we created, specifically engineered to give farmers and some home services artificially and legally cheap labor out of the fear that Mexicans would get unionized like the rest of the country was doing? An illegal immigrant can't unionize or fight for better wages or working conditions. We created a permanent lower class workforce that did not have the ability to protest for better conditions and allowed them to be abused physically, emotionally, economically and even culturally. I understand about illegal, the question is really, do you?

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FAIR anti Rubio Dream Act Talking points

A)The Rubio DREAM Act rewards those who have violated our immigration laws. Rubio's DREAM Act, like the Democrats' bill, rewards people who violated our immigration laws through their children.

The DREAM Act immigrants ARE children who were brought into the US as minors, How can these children have violated any laws? They came with their parents, not having any say in the matter. Immigrant parents did not violate immigration laws through their kids. This is just plain ridiculous.

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B) The inevitable result will be millions more people bringing their children into the U. S. illegally.

Inevitable. I love that word. So sure are they on their hypothesis, without having any real-world study to gauge their assumptions, they not only talk about the gaming of the DREAM ACT as being "inevitable" but also "millions" of immigrants are going to do it. Have they read the DREAM Act, or are they just hoping we haven't?

How about this instead: If someone in another country is eying the DREAM Act for their own, or even their children's benefit, it is very probable that when the larger percentage of their children become unqualified due to any one of the many rigid qualifications applicants must meet in order to be eligible, the reality of the level of difficulty will set in and a very real understanding of what it actually takes to qualify for protections under this act will circulate and become widely known. This will not be seen as a gift courtesy of the American taxpayer, because it is far from that. The DREAM Act is an opportunity for the best and brightest to live the American dream, should they have what it takes to qualify.

The less than academically motivated may opt for Military service. The smart among them will also get training in a skill or trade they can use in civilian life. These are still the best of the immigrants that come through our borders. Anyone who is willing to die for an opportunity to become an American, in my humble opinion, has just proved they are worth it.

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C) (or even sending them to the U.S. by themselves)

This is my personal favorite. They have to be thinking about Moses when they think of someone who was successful, being sent someplace as a child on their own. Reality is much less fortuitous and crossing the border successfully today is not a forgone conclusion. The borders have many more guards, high tech equipment and it is becoming much more dangerous to find places to get across. Coyotes are well known to take advantage of youths and girls, making it especially dangerous for them.

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D) in the expectation that they too will be rewarded

So having kids and waiting until they turn 18, or older, and then waiting another 6-10 years for them to become citizens, and then wait a few more years to have the wherewithal to be able to sponsor them as family members; that is a good plan? Or if they are still in Mexico, raising your child in Mexico, then sending him (not her, she will be raped and possibly killed) through alone, or with the help of a notoriously untrustworthy coyote who will more than likely prey on them and extort more money, then wait a few more years for them to become financially viable enough to sponsor you, THEN you can come to America? What good would that do anyway? You can't retire here; you will not have paid anything into the Social Security system. You will have to work until the day you die, or be a burden on your children. Great plan. Do you think Americans are going to believe this is how millions of Latinos are going to come into our country?

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E)The Rubio DREAM Act will likely lead to chain migration.

I don't really know what to think about this statement. They are guessing on what the bill Marco Rubio is meaning in a bill that "has not disseminated specific legislative language," yet they go on to defend the constitutionality of the DREAM Act, and yet warn us about the "eventual legal status for a broad range of relatives whether they reside in or outside of the United States." So what side of the fence are these people on, that Rubio's DREAM Act is constitutional or it's a bad thing? And are there more bad things that are constitutional? Maybe this Constitution is a bad thing we need to stop. (Maybe that's next) I think these folks are a bit paranoid. Not everyone, whether they reside inside or outside of the United States is going to want US citizenship.

One thing I don't think these people are aware of, is that US citizens, even if they live outside the United States, will have to pay income tax on the money they make. Now

there's an incentive to become a US citizen if I ever heard of one.

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F) Rubio's Current Attempt to Resurrect the DREAM Act is the 2012 version of the "Grand Bargain." In 2007, Democratic and Republican leaders went behind closed doors and emerged with what they described as the "Grand Bargain" on amnesty and attempted to force-feed the legislation to Members of Congress and the American public.

[I think the people who run these campaigns are trying to sell us some "fear of the unknown."](#) What they are referring to is a classic example of how the Republicans defeated a version of the DREAM Act, even after one of their own, Kay Bailey Hutchison, helped with the re-writes. Since both the Democrats and the Republicans worked together on this, [they thought it was a "Grand Bargain."](#) Unfortunately, the ultra-conservatives in the Republican Party saw otherwise. They are actually proving the case that the Republicans have been the holdouts on anything resembling a DREAM Act in any way shape or form, even when a couple of the authors were Republicans. If you look closely, you will see Romney's political advisors fingerprints all over this, and this is why nobody is buying his, ["I haven't made up my mind yet"](#) on his stance on immigration, even after he made many of these statements himself. The use of "Force-feed" emphasizes the fact that these extremists consider anything less than deportation as unreasonable. It was a close vote, needing only 8 more votes to pass, but it still failed.

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G) Rubio's DREAM Act will likely be expanded through the amendment process. Illegal alien advocates and their supporters in Congress have repeatedly indicated that they will not be satisfied with a watered-down version of the DREAM Act. It is possible, even likely, that Rubio's version of the DREAM Act would be expanded significantly through the amendment process before a final vote in the Democratic controlled Senate.

First off, there is no “Democratic controlled Senate. Secondly, this just reeks of paranoia again. (These people love to sell fear.) The final vote is key. If it gets passed in any form, expanded or more restrictive, it wins. If it fails in any form it loses. That’s the way it goes, and the Senate will be, and has always been, in control of the vote. Nothing has changed and nothing can be predicted, unless, of course, you have a direct line to the [Darth Vader Psychic Hotline](#). (The one that you pay extra for.) Note again the heavy use of words like “likely, possible, even likely, and significantly.” Vague and broad. FEAR, FAIR, FEAR they almost rhyme.

If the DREAM Act gets expanded before a final vote and fails, so what? If it gets expanded before a final vote and wins, then that is what Congress saw fit to approve. The ultra-conservatives love to take things out of the DREAM Act, but heaven forbid if something gets put back in. It's a one-way street for the conservative extremists, proving them to be the ultimate obstacles to anything getting passed through Congress.

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H) Amnesty for illegal aliens will not win Republicans more Hispanic votes. Hispanic voters consistently rank immigration far below basic bread and butter issues on their list of priorities. Hispanic voters, like other voters, are looking for viable plans to improve the economy, put Americans back to work, and close government deficits. However, amnesties, like the DREAM Act, will hurt Republicans—especially with independents.

Didn’t they just make an argument for adding DREAM Act recipients? Hispanic voters want: viable plans to improve the economy; to put Americans back to work; to close government deficits. Wow, sounds like a bunch of loonies alright.

Whose side are these people on if not on the side of what's best for the US? I think what they're really focusing on is how new immigrant voters will have very few reasons to become Republicans, and a whole laundry list of reasons to become anything else. The fact that their statement “Amnesty for illegal aliens will not win Republicans more Hispanic votes.” makes the point that all the Republicans are thinking about is themselves, and how they are going to have a tough time of it if undocumented immigrants actually get to vote.

They don't care about us as much as they are working to protect themselves. And it makes them sound downright pouty.

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I) Rubio's DREAM Act will probably not impress voters

At least not ultra-conservative voters, but if they don't want what's good for America, who cares what they want? We need to get back to what is good for America, not what's good for Democrats or Republicans, liberals or conservatives, white or brown, east or west. . .

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J) “The small segment of the electorate that is likely to base their votes on amnesty for illegal aliens is unlikely to be impressed by a watered down version of the DREAM Act when the other party is offering the unadulterated version. “

I think they are implying they have the majority point of view on this subject. All major polls done by reputable agencies say otherwise. Yes, we Americans are more than probably going to be disappointed in “a watered down version of the DREAM Act,” but it's not because the other party is offering the original, unadulterated version. I haven't heard there are two opposing bills on the floor of the Senate. Again, this is the selling of fear to the uninitiated at the expense of actual facts. How originally FAIR.

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