

DREAM Legislation Talking Points:

(Source: United We Dream)

As the largest immigrant youth network in the country, United We Dream is appreciative of the support offered by a broad, diverse coalition of allies and numerous elected official champions. The coordinated work of this coalition, led by DREAMers and those directly impacted by immigration legislation, has transformed the public narrative and built an overwhelming national consensus that DREAMers should be here in the country they call home and given the opportunity to become citizens.

As we continue our advocacy together, we wish to raise a concern related to the language some in the immigrant justice movement use when talking about DREAMers' families and the broader community. In order to win a clear path to citizenship and fair treatment for our families, as well as an end to border militarization and out-of-control deportations and abuses, we must refuse to let anyone divide our community into the deserving and the undeserving.

To that end, we respectfully ask that allies no longer say that DREAMers "came here through no fault of their own." To say so directly implies that our parents came here through fault instead of aspiration. Similarly, referring to young immigrants as "blameless" points fingers at our parents, whose courageous sacrifices are what have made our dreams possible. Here are some messages we suggest using to put DREAMers and our families front and center and refuse to let anyone pit us against one another.

Say this...

Instead of this...

DREAMers came to the U.S. with their families for a better life	DREAMers came to the U.S. through no fault of their own
DREAMers' parents made a courageous decision to leave everything behind to give their child a better future	DREAMers had no say in the decision to come here and no knowledge of the laws they were breaking
It's here that DREAMers and their parents' dreams were planted and it's here they will be realized	DREAMers have dreams of college and joining the military
The parents of DREAMers sacrificed so much for them to have a better future	We shouldn't punish a child for the decisions his/her parents made
DREAMers' parents are the backbone of this nation; they have given their blood, sweat, and tears to our country	DREAMers grow up here, sit in the same classrooms as our kids, and deserve the same treatment as any American
We cannot allow DREAMers' parents and the rest of the 11 million to be condemned to permanent second-class status	DREAMers deserve a chance to become citizens

Thank you for your consideration and please contact our communications teams with any questions or to suggest future conversation or collaboration around joint messaging opportunities. You can reach Kristin Ford, our Senior Communications and Online Strategist, at Kristin@unitedwedream.org or [202.570.6441](tel:202.570.6441) and Mario Carrillo, our Communications Manager, at Mario@unitedwedream.org or [915.449.6463](tel:915.449.6463).