

McConnell Office Visit

McConnell Talking Points for Office Visit Oct. 26, 2017

Summary: McConnell has been inconsistent with regard to Dreamer's and his support of them. In February of this year he stated, **"I'm very sympathetic with this situation. I mean, these are young people who were brought here at a tender age and who have grown up here, or are in the process of growing up here. I'm very sympathetic to that situation."**¹ However, that sympathy has not extended to his sponsorship or co-sponsorship of any legislation related to solving this issue. Moreover, just three years ago after the DACA program had been in force, McConnell complained about **"the countless aspiring immigrants who've spent years waiting patiently in line. To the people who have played by all the rules. Where is the compassion for them? What does the President have to say to the millions of Americans who still can't find work in this economy"**?² McConnell has complained that the proper way to solve the issue of undocumented immigrants is through Congress, but he has made no effort himself to further that process by signing onto Linsey Graham's S. 1615 Dream Act.³ He has only stated, **"As Congress debates the best ways to address illegal immigration through strong border security and interior enforcement, DACA should be part of those discussions"**.⁴ McConnell has also stated he is waiting for the President's legislative proposal and **"we will continue to work on these issues."**⁴ Border security has been a big push even though not a single terrorist who has attacked in the US has crossed the US Mexican border illegally.⁵ These actions and statements raise the following questions for McConnell.

Questions

1. McConnell indicated he is sympathetic to Dreamers and their situation. **Would McConnell please explain then why he has not sponsored or even co-sponsored any legislation to deal with this crisis created by the Trump administration termination of DACA?**
2. McConnell complained in 2014 about the aspiring immigrants waiting patiently in line, who played by all the rules and asked where is the compassion for them? **Why should compassion for refugee immigrants supersede the need for compassion of undocumented immigrants already in the US? Why should admission of one type of immigrant to the US even be argued as a basis for not addressing the issue with DACA individuals?**
3. There are 22.5 million refugees who have been displaced from their countries by war, violence and persecution.⁵ **Would McConnell explain how a paltry 45,000/yr immigrant admissions to the US (with the 3rd largest population in the world and one of the most diverse) in anyway reflects our broader responsibilities as a nation to help people fleeing violence and oppression around the world? Is the attitude, "let others take care it" an acceptable response to this worldwide humanitarian crisis?**
4. DACA has shown three things: (1) Dreamers want a path to US Citizenship and to be full members in our society; (2) legal rights enhance their quality of life and their contributions to our tax base; and (3) DACA individuals are associated with half the crime rate per capita as US citizens.⁶ **If McConnell really cares about the quality of immigrant admitted to the US, is concerned with human rights and US economic growth, why hasn't he embraced Dreamer's as the model immigrants they have proven themselves to be instead of just ignoring them or even treating them like undesirable/illegal aliens?**
5. Undocumented immigrants make up about 1% of the population of Kentucky. Were they to be eliminated from the state, Kentucky would lose \$155 million in GDP, \$37.4 million in state and local taxes and would likely make enemies of some who are currently friends.⁷

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Would McConnell please explain how such neglect and disregard for these individuals helps Kentucky in any positive way?

References:

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4. McConnell tells Trump: Send Congress your DACA proposal. M. Shuham, TPM, Sept. 14, 2017. <http://talkingpointsmemo.com/livewire/mitch-mcconnell-statement-potential-daca-deal>
5. How Terrorists Get In. S.A. Camarota, Center for Immigration Studies. Sept. 1, 2002. <https://cis.org/How-Terrorists-Get>
6. Forced displacement worldwide at its highest in decades. UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency). A. Edwards, June 19, 2017 <http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/stories/2017/6/5941561f4/forced-displacement-worldwide-its-highest-decades.html>
7. Report on DACA, Dreamers, Undocumented Immigrants and their Relevance to America. Bluegrass Indivisible Report, Oct. 8, 2017. <http://www.indivisiblebluegrass.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DACA-RESEARCH.pdf>