

Rand Paul Office Questions – Oct. 2017

Synopsis

With regard to immigration reform and Dreamer's in particular, to quote an old Texas phrase, Rand Paul is "all hat and no cows". Rand Paul has talked about his empathy for Dreamers when the camera's are rolling, and done nothing on the legislative front to help any of them. Shortly after the Trump administration ended the DACA program, Rand Paul called for bipartisan Congressional collaboration to replace or fix the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration policy. He stated, "there are ways to protect the deportation of undocumented immigrants who were brought to the country as minors and sought work permits."¹ Earlier in this year (Feb. 2017) Paul stated, "If you are one of these DREAMER kids, we ought to get you a permit and legalize you."² However, as Ryan Campbell noted in his Apr. 7, 2015 blog post, Rand Paul is the epitome of politicians who say, "I believe in immigration reform, BUT..." When it comes to show his empathy in a practical manner, Paul has consistently broken against the few opportunities for change in our broken immigration system that have come up. To Paul, immigration simply isn't that high a priority to break with his party.³ The kind of legislation that Paul has signed onto is: Senate Bill S. 87 "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act, that would punish States and localities who did not facilitate efforts to enforce deportation of undocumented immigrants; and he sponsored Senate Bill S. 727 (3/27/2017) that expands EB-5 investor visas that would exempt these visas from immigration limits (which he would not do for DACA recipients); and exclude them from country caps. So, if you have money, Paul is all in favor of letting you and your family into the US to invest it, but if you come here dirt poor, work for a living, struggle to get by, you are just not that important to him to care about. This raises the following Questions:

Questions

1. You have spoken about your empathy for undocumented immigrants at length before the press, but have not sponsored or co-sponsored any legislation (in spite of promising to do so) that would directly help any DACA individuals. ***Could you please explain why not?***
2. You have publicly stated that you felt Dreamers ought to get a permit and be legalized, but that should count against the immigration quotas. You referred to this as "internal immigration" because we are normalizing them now.⁴ ***Please explain why you feel Dreamer's ought to be counted against any immigration quotas but EB-5 visa holders should be freely admitted and not counted against any number. Is it your belief money is more important than circumstances in life?***
3. There are 22.5 million refugees currently in the world that have been displaced from their home countries due to war, violence and abuse. As the third largest country on earth with one of the most diverse populations, ***why shouldn't the US be doing more to help resettle people fleeing these humanitarian crises, instead of simply expecting other countries to shoulder the brunt of this responsibility?***
4. Undocumented immigrants account for 1% of Kentucky's population and were they eliminated from the population would result in a loss of \$155 million in state GDP and \$37.4 million in state and local taxes.⁵ ***Would you explain how neglect and disregard for these individuals, the failure to provide them a legal pathway to citizenship in any way "helps" Kentucky in a positive way?***

Rand Paul Office Questions – Oct. 2017

References:

1. Paul Calls for bipartisan DACA solution. The Hill, O. Beavers, Sept. 5, 2017. <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/349219-rand-paul-calls-for-bipartisan-daca-solution>
2. Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY) on Dreamers: “Let’s legalize you”. CNN interview 2/28/2017. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1DlxMUmlU0w>
3. Rand Paul and Immigration. Ryan Campbell, Apr. 7, 2015. Blog. http://drmactioncoalition.org/rand-paul-and-immigration/#.WfQ_CmhSyM9
4. Paul Calls for bipartisan DACA solution. The Hill, O. Beavers, Sept. 5, 2017. <http://thehill.com/homenews/administration/349219-rand-paul-calls-for-bipartisan-daca-solution>
5. Report on DACA, Dreamers, Undocumented immigrants and their relevance to America. Bluegrass Indivisible, Oct. 8, 2017. <http://www.indivisiblebluegrass.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/DACA-RESEARCH.pdf>