

CITY OF SAN JOSE  
OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY PRESENTS



**IMMIGRATION  
SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

11.10.21  FACEBOOK LIVE @ 5PM

Featuring.

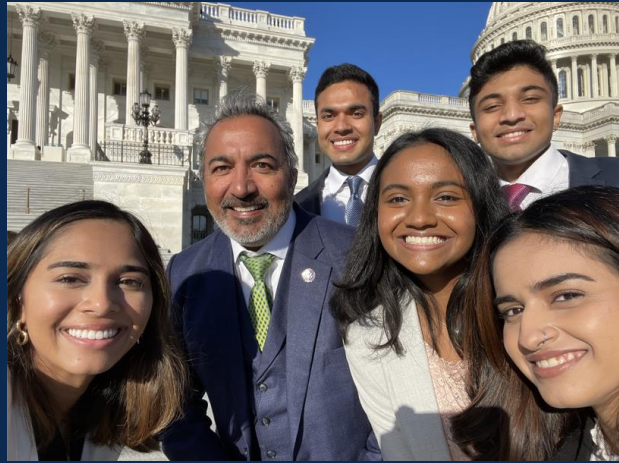
Sumana Kaluvai, The Hidden Dream, Lead Director  
Dip Patel, Improve the Dream, Founder



**IMPROVE  
THE DREAM**

# Improve The Dream

- Improve The Dream is a youth-led organization that advocates for children of long-term visa holders, also known as Documented Dreamers, who are raised and educated in the United States without a clear path to citizenship.
- Since 2017, we have been advocating for change that permanently ends aging-out and provides a path to citizenship for every child who grows up in the United States, regardless of status.
- Network of over 2000 Documented Dreamers and families across the United States, working collectively to raise awareness for the more than 200,000 Documented Dreamers in the United States and support one another in navigating the broken immigration system.



# Documented Dreamers

- Children of long-term visa holders without clear path to citizenship
- Due to decades-long green card backlogs and some visas having no pathways to citizenship, children age out of their status at 21, often with no clear path to citizenship.
- Approximately 5,000 young people, often referred to as “Documented Dreamers,” age out of their status every year without protection.

# Documented Dreamers Struggles

- Ineligible to work
- Don't qualify for FAFSA, student loans, in-state tuition, and are considered "international students" at many colleges.
- When we turn 21, we must either self-deport or switch to a student visa, get lucky enough to be sponsored by an employer, win the work visa lottery, and start the entire immigration process all over again

A grid of approximately 100 small, square portraits of diverse young people, likely students, arranged in a 10x10 pattern. The portraits are slightly faded and have a blue tint. Overlaid on the center of the grid is the text "200,000+ DOCUMENTED DREAMERS" in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is centered horizontally and vertically, with the numbers "200,000+" on the top line, "DOCUMENTED" on the second line, and "DREAMERS" on the third line.

**200,000+**  
**DOCUMENTED**  
**DREAMERS**

A grid of approximately 100 small, square portraits of diverse young people, likely students, arranged in a 10x10 pattern. The portraits are set against a dark blue background. Overlaid on the center of the grid is the text "40,000 IN CALIFORNIA" in large, white, bold, sans-serif font. The text is split across three lines: "40,000" on the top line, "IN" on the middle line, and "CALIFORNIA" on the bottom line. The portraits show a wide range of ethnicities, ages, and expressions, representing a diverse group of individuals.

40,000  
IN  
CALIFORNIA



California	40,000
New York	26,000
Texas	18,000
Florida	14,000
Massachusetts	11,000
New Jersey	9,000
Illinois	9,000
Washington	9,000
Pennsylvania	7,000
Michigan	7,000

Source: DHS, Improve The Dream

# Improve The Dream Goals

- Permanently end “aging out” and ensure all children who grow up in the United States receive a path to citizenship
- Changes to Federal Immigration Laws
- Administrative Policies
- Changes to State Laws
- Help Documented Dreamers navigate the system and make it easier to do so until permanent change is made

# History on Immigration Efforts

- Federal
  - DACA
  - Dream Act
  - Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- California
  - AB 540

# Guidelines

You may request DACA if you:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012, meaning that:
  - o You never had a lawful immigration status on or before June 15, 2012, or
  - o Any lawful immigration status or parole that you obtained prior to June 15, 2012, had expired as of June 15, 2012;

## Assembly Bill No. 540

### CHAPTER 814

**68130.5.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law:

(a) A student, other than a nonimmigrant alien within the meaning of paragraph (15) of subsection (a) of Section 1101 of Title 8 of the United States Code, who meets all of the following requirements shall be exempt from paying nonresident tuition at the California State University and the California Community Colleges:

(1) High school attendance in California for three or more years.

(2) Graduation from a California high school or attainment of the equivalent thereof.

(3) Registration as an entering student at, or current enrollment at, an accredited institution of higher education in California not earlier than the fall semester or quarter of the 2001-02 academic year.

(4) In the case of a person without lawful immigration status, the filing of an affidavit with the institution of higher education stating that the student has filed an application to legalize his or her immigration status, or will file an application as soon as he or she is eligible to do so.

(b) A student exempt from nonresident tuition under this section may be reported by a community college district as a full-time equivalent student for apportionment purposes.

# Immigration Reform in 2021

- Dream & Promise Act
- America's Children Act
- Reconciliation Bill

# Dream & Promise Act

22 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a), or  
23 is the son or daughter of an alien admitted as a non-  
24 immigrant under subparagraphs (E)(i), (E)(ii),  
25 (H)(i)(b), or (L) of section 101(a)(15) of such Act  
26 (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) if—

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

## Why Don't They Just Get in Line? Barriers to Legal Immigration



Testimony of Parveen Mhatre  
Student  
Member, Improve The Dream

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee's  
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

Hearing on "Why Don't They Just Get in Line?" Barriers to Legal  
Immigration"  
April 28, 2021



Statement for the Record

Dip Patel  
Founder and President, Improve The Dream

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee's  
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

"Why Don't They Just Get in Line?" Barriers to Legal Immigration"  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021



Statement for the Record

Collection of Personal Statements from  
Members of Improve The Dream

Submitted to the House Judiciary Committee's  
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship

"Why Don't They Just Get in Line?" Barriers to Legal Immigration"  
Wednesday, April 28, 2021



# America's Children Act



I

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## H. R. 4331

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

— JULY 1, 2021

Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. BEHA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CHOW, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “America’s Cultivation  
5 of Hope and Inclusion for Long-term Dependents Raised  
6 and Educated Natively Act of 2021” or the “America’s  
7 CHILDREN Act of 2021”.



II

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

## S. 2753

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

— SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. PAUL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to authorize lawful permanent resident status for certain college graduates who entered the United States as children, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “America’s Children  
5 Act” or the “Protecting Children of Long-term Visa Hold-  
6 ers Act of 2021”.



## SUMMARY

Cultivation of  
Hope and  
Inclusion for  
Long-term  
Dependents  
Raised and  
Educated  
Natively

- 1** Provides a path to permanent residency for children who:
  - were brought to the U.S. as child dependents of long-term visa holders
  - maintained legal status in the U.S. for 10 years
  - graduated from an American university
- 2** Protects children from aging-out by locking in a child's age on the date on which a parent filed for a green card rather than the final action date.
- 3** Provides work authorization for children of long-term visa holders whose green card applications are backlogged, if they are at least 16 years old.
- 4** Allows children who have aged out to retain original priority date for future petitions.

### WHY IS THIS NEEDED?

Most Americans are not aware that it is possible for an immigrant child to grow up in the United States with a legal status and still not have a clear path to citizenship. These children were raised here and have completed all of their education here. As **STEM graduates and essential workers**, these children provide immense benefits to the U.S., and forcing them to self-deport could cost the U.S. over **\$30 Billion** in net fiscal benefits. This bill permanently fixes this issue and allows children who grew up here as long-term dependents to be recognized as the Americans that they are.

# Congressional Letter to Administration

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 25, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Thank you for your commitment to preserving and fortifying Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the recent announcement of your intention to engage in notice and comment rulemaking on DACA.<sup>1</sup> As you embark on these and other efforts to restore faith in our immigration system, we urge you to consider administrative actions to provide protections for young people who have grown up in the United States as dependents of nonimmigrant visa holders.

Like Dreamers, many of these individuals—often referred to as “Documented Dreamers”—were raised in this country, completed their education in the American school system, and graduated with degrees from American institutions of higher education. As STEM graduates, high-performing students, and essential workers, they contribute significantly to our nation. However, due to the decades-long backlogs in the immigrant visa system, many of these individuals will turn 21, and “age out” of eligibility for their temporary visa status and for permanent resident status before they can complete the process. Others, such as the dependents of E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants, have no path to permanent residence. When these individuals turn 21, if they are unable to change to a temporary status independent of their parent, they must make the untenable choice of remaining here with their families without status or returning to their country of birth alone. As such, to preserve family unity, we urge you to take action to protect and provide relief to Documented Dreamers, and specifically consider the following:

- 1. Update DACA criteria to include individuals who had lawful status on June 15, 2012.** Under current guidelines, DACA applicants must have been physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012 and have had no lawful status on that date.<sup>2</sup> We urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to update the application criteria to allow individuals who had lawful status in the United States on June 15, 2012, but subsequently lost such status, to qualify for DACA. This would be consistent with the original June 15, 2012 memorandum, “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children,” which only requires one to be “present in

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/doc/AagendaViewRule?pubM=202104&RIN=1615-A-064>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Properly Asked Questions*, <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/considerations-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-frequently-asked-questions>

the United States” on such date.<sup>3</sup> This change would allow a portion of the Documented Dreamer population who fell or will fall out of status at age 21 to be eligible for protection from removal.

- 2. Direct U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) to use the date that an individual can file an application for adjustment of status as the basis for calculating a dependent child’s age under the Child Status Protection Act.** Under the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA), the “CSPA age” of a dependent child is calculated based on “the date on which an immigrant visa number becomes available.”<sup>4</sup> Under section 245(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, an individual can file an application for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident if “an immigrant visa is immediately available” at the time the application is filed. Each month, the Department of State publishes a summary of visa availability for the coming month in the Visa Bulletin.<sup>5</sup> In addition to a chart of “Final Action Dates,” a separate “Dates for Filing” chart is published which indicates when immigrant visa applicants will be notified to assemble and submit required documentation to the Department of State. If USCIS determines that there are more immigrant visas available for the fiscal year than there are known applicants, USCIS will inform the public that individuals may file their applications for adjustment of status in accordance with the “Dates for Filing” chart.

In November 2020, USCIS updated its Policy Manual to confirm that it uses the “Final Action Dates” chart when calculating an applicant’s CSPA age, regardless of whether the individual filed the application in accordance with the “Dates for Filing” chart. We ask that USCIS revisit this policy and, for individuals who were able to utilize the “Dates for Filing” chart to file their adjustment applications, use such chart for purposes of this calculation. This will give more young people the opportunity to retain their eligibility for adjustment of status without running contrary to USCIS’s interpretation of when a visa is “available.”

We ask that you consider these measures to protect young people who maintained status as dependents of long-term visa holders. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

<sup>3</sup> Memorandum from Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security, *Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children* (June 15, 2012),

<https://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/01-exercising-prosecutorial-discretion-individuals-who-came-to-us-as-children.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> DSA 2018/01(A); 8 U.S.C. 1153(d)(1)(A).

<sup>5</sup> Department of State, *Visa Bulletin*, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/legal/visa-law0/visa-bulletin.html>

/s/  
Zoe Lofgren  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Kaiali'i Kahele  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Colin Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Lauren Underwood  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

/s/  
André Carson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Alma S. Adams, PhD  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress

CC: Tracy Renaud, Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

# Congressional Letter to Leadership

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

August 9, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

We write to request that any budget reconciliation bill include a pathway to permanent residency for young people who have grown up in the United States as dependents of long-term visa holders. We ask that these individuals—often referred to as “Documented Dreamers”—be included in any measures to establish a pathway to permanent status for Dreamers.

Like Dreamers, many of these young people were raised in this country, completed their education in the American school system, and graduated with degrees from American institutions of higher education. As STEM graduates, high-performing students, and essential workers, they contribute significantly to our nation.

However, once these individuals turn 21, they are no longer eligible for temporary visa status as dependents of their parents. Additionally, due to the decades-long backlogs in the immigrant visa system, many of them will “age out” of eligibility for permanent resident status, even though their parents’ applications remain pending. Others, such as the dependents of E-1 and E-2 nonimmigrants, have no path to permanent residence. After turning 21, Documented Dreamers are forced to obtain their own nonimmigrant status if they want to remain in the United States. However, these options are limited and only temporary in nature. If they are unable to obtain their own nonimmigrant status, they must make the untenable choice of remaining here with their families without status or returning alone to their country of birth.

Documented Dreamers are also not eligible for protection from removal under Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) because DACA only applies to individuals who were in the United States without lawful status on June 15, 2012.<sup>1</sup> In short, Documented Dreamers are at a disadvantage solely because their parents brought them into the United States in lawful status.

Although past legislation to provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers has excluded Documented Dreamers, this year, H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act*, included this deserving group of individuals.

There is strong bipartisan support for providing relief to Documented Dreamers, and we ask that you consider including all Dreamers—both those who came to this country without

<sup>1</sup> United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Consideration for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)*, <https://www.uscis.gov/immigration/consideration-of-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals-daca>.

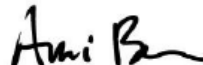
documentation as well as young people who have maintained status as dependents—in any upcoming reconciliation bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Ami Bera, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress

Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

Kathy Manning  
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, PhD  
Member of Congress

Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress

Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress

Jason Crow  
Member of Congress





# Improve The Dream



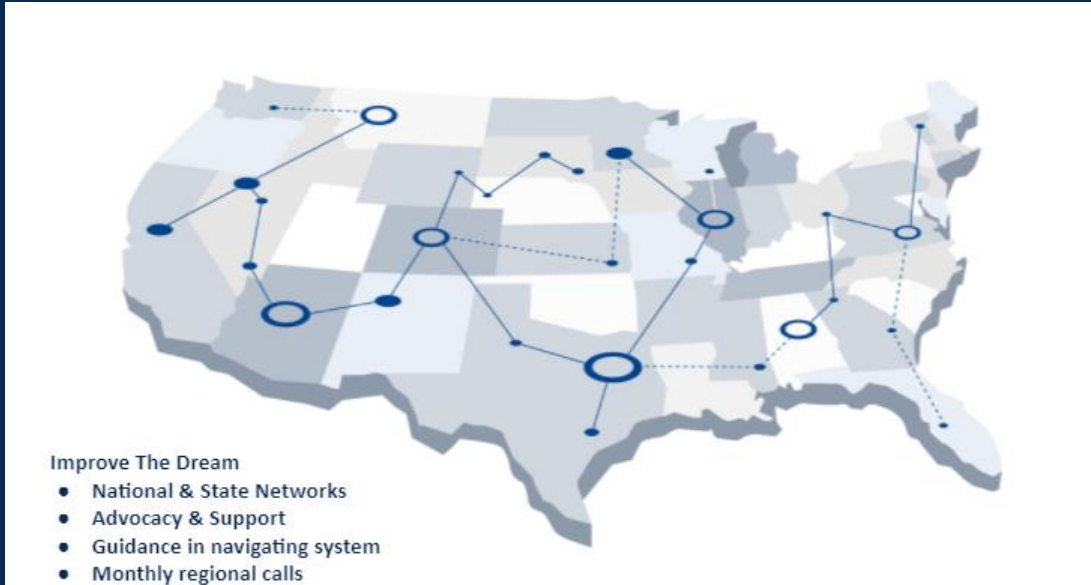
## Improve The Dream

- National & State Networks
- Advocacy & Support
- Guidance in navigating system
- Monthly regional calls



# ImproveTheDream.org

- If you are a Documented Dreamer, you can join our team and network of 800+ Documented Dreamers





## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

# Applicants for Change of Status to F-1 Student No Longer Need to Submit Subsequent Applications to ‘Bridge the Gap’

Release Date : 07/20/2021

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services today announced new policy guidance that eliminates the need for individuals who have applied for a change of status (COS) to F-1 student to apply to change or extend their nonimmigrant status while their initial F-1 COS application is pending.

Under the previous policy, applicants needed to maintain status up to 30 days before the program start date listed on their Form I-20, Certificate for Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, which required them to file extensions, or an initial COS and subsequent extensions ensuring that they would not have a “gap” in status.

To prevent a “gap” in status, USCIS will grant the change of status to F-1 effective the day we approve an applicant’s [Form I-539, Application to Extend/Change Nonimmigrant Status](#). If we approve an application more than 30 days before the student’s program start date, the student must ensure they do not violate their F-1 status during that time. An example of a violation would be engaging in employment, including on-campus employment, more than 30 days before the program start date as listed on their Form I-20.

# Meet Documented Dreamers



**Hilary**

"My parents brought me and my siblings to the US from South Korea when I was just ten months old."

[Read More](#) →



**Anagh**

"Any casual observer watching me live my life wouldn't notice any differences between my life and any other American student's"

[Read More](#) →



**Summer**

"In the spring of 2000, not long after I turned a year old, my young and ambitious parents moved to Florida"

[Read More](#) →



**Padma**

"When I was 8 months old, I took a life-changing flight from India to the Boston Airport. It was the beginning of my life in America—the only life I've ever known."



**Jorge**

"In 2002, my parents, under an E2 visa, decided to move to America from Colombia in hopes of providing my brother and me a better future."



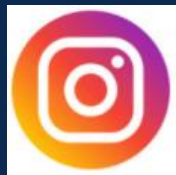
**Sanjana**

"All I'm looking for is security. All my life, that seemed like it was too much to ask."

# Social Media



@ImproveTheDream



@ImproveTheDream



@ImproveTheDreamOrg



CITY OF SAN JOSE  
OFFICE OF RACIAL EQUITY PRESENTS



**IMMIGRATION  
SPOTLIGHT SERIES**

11.10.21  FACEBOOK LIVE @ 5PM

Featuring.

Sumana Kaluvai, The Hidden Dream, Lead Director  
Dip Patel, Improve the Dream, Founder



# Who are we?

As a team of six Hidden Dreamers, who have gone through the immigration struggle, we created this organization to help others in the same situation

The Hidden Dream was built to **raise awareness** of the countless struggles faced by visa immigrants, **share resources, and create a community to uplift Documented Dreamers** who have spent several years in this country without a pathway to citizenship.

---

*Let's talk more about who THD serves....*

# What are the issues faced by Documented Dreamers?

- No work permit
- Inability to apply to financial aid for education
- Very difficult to leave abusive households due to immigration
- Restricted from certain colleges and areas of study
- Difficult to obtain Driver's licenses, IDs etc
- Do not qualify for instate tuition
- Not able to freely travel
- At a high risk of deportation at 21

**200,000+**

Documented  
Dreamers

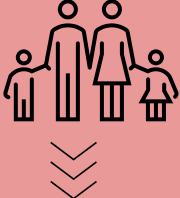


Silicon Valley

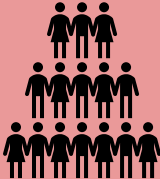


# How does this issue develop?

A work visa individual comes to the US



Some get sponsored for a green card



Enter a LONG line for a green card



It can take 80+ years for an Indian origin person to get a GC



Parents will continue to wait in line for GC



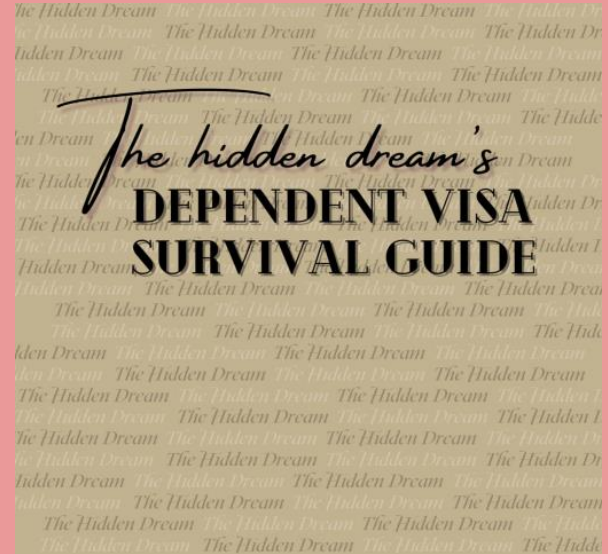
Child is kicked off application at 21! (Documented Dreamer) and is at high risk of deportation



Spouse and child are on dependent visas and face strict restrictions

# How does THD help?

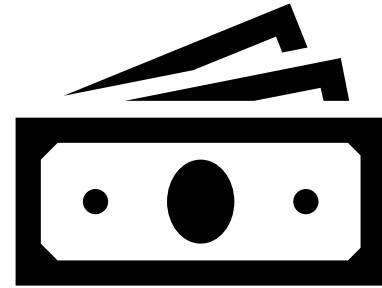
A deep dive into our programming and resources



# Our Resources

- Scholarships
  - Yearly THD Scholarship (7 this year!)
  - Immigrant Friendly Scholarship Guide
- Mental Health
  - Therapist Partnerships
  - Support Groups
- Survival Guide
- “Mock” Internships
- College mentors
- Workshop series
  - Aged out career panelists
  - How to finance your education
  - Is Canada an option?
  - How to talk about immigration with colleges?
  - How to switch to an F-1 visa and avoid deportation
- Job Referral Network

# How you can help!



- Talk about this issue!
- Engage in conversations to promote comprehensive immigration reform
- Call your representatives and ask them to protect ALL dreamers

- Donate to help support our programming
- <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/hackplus/the-hidden-dream>
- Reach out to us to learn more about corporate matching of donations!

# Ways to connect with us!



@\_thehiddendream\_



@\_thehiddendream



The Hidden Dream

Feel free to email me!  
[sumana@thehiddendream.org](mailto:sumana@thehiddendream.org)