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# OLYMPIA INDIVISIBLE

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*Research Report: December 2, 2017*

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| <b>1. The DREAM Act</b>                      | Pages 1-2 |
| <b>2. What Happens to the Tax Bill Next?</b> | Pages 3-4 |
| <b>3. Congress Contact Information</b>       | Page 5    |

# 1. The DREAM Act

## Information from Indivisible.org

**Summary:** Turn your anger at the Senate's vote for the Tax Scam vote into action on the next big fight for a DREAM Act.

### Talking Points:

- Donald Trump took another step in enacting his white supremacist agenda by announcing the rescission of the [Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) program](#), effectively turning 800,000 American lives into fodder for his for-profit [deportation machine](#). **There are 19,180 DACA recipients in Washington alone, and each year they contribute \$51,272,000 in State and local taxes.** Donald Trump has betrayed our values and unraveled our promise to these young immigrants who grew up calling the United States home. It's up to your members in Congress to stand up to Trump's hateful decision and secure the futures of all DREAMers with a legislative fix: The DREAM Act.
- Now that Donald Trump has yanked protection away from immigrant youth, it is now up to Congress to take action. Every day that goes by is a day in which the lives of immigrant youth remain at risk.
- Ask your members of Congress to become Dream Heroes now!
- Who are Dream Heroes? They are members of Congress who pledge to protect Dreamers. If Congress hasn't passed the Dream Act by Dec. 8—when funding for the government expires—then they will insist on including it as part of the December spending bill. The pledge is that they will only vote for a continuing resolution ("CR") if it has the Dream Act included. A vote on a continuing resolution without the Dream Act is a vote to deport Dreamers.
- Immigrant rights groups are planning for a national day of action on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, and it's critical that we show up as allies.

### MoCs:

- [Sens. Murray, Cantwell, Democratic Women Senators to McConnell: Pass the DREAM Act Before Senate Recesses in December](#)

### To Do:

- [Call your Senators to tell them to take the Dreamer Pledge](#): a commitment to stand up for Dreamers and only pass a continuing resolution (CR) that includes the DREAM Act.
  - Script: Hello! My name is [name] and I'm calling from [place in state]. I'm concerned about Trump's announcement that he is ending the DACA program to provide relief from deportation for 800,000 DREAMers who came to the United States as children. I'm calling to ask the [Senator/Representative] to take the "DREAMer Pledge", which is a commitment to do everything he/she can to pass the DREAM Act as soon as possible. And if it hasn't passed by December 8<sup>th</sup>, I'm asking that the Senator/Representative insist that it be included in the December government spending bill.
- OI Member and Our Revolution coordinator Florence Vincent is planning a DREAMers photo op on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at the insurance building on the Capitol Campus on noon. This is in support of asking our MoCs to use the budget bill to show their commitment to DACA. You may find other local immigrant-led groups near you and join the national Day of Action on December 6<sup>th</sup>--check out [United We Dream's site](#) to get you started. Or show your solidarity by [organizing your own event!](#)
- Want to know more about how we can protect immigrant youth from deportation by passing a clean DREAM act this month? [Tune in to our Facebook Live](#) this Monday at 8:30 PM Eastern, featuring

Indivisible's Policy team and representatives from United We Dream, a leader in the fight for a clean DREAM Act.

- This coming Tuesday at 8 PM Eastern, 5 PM Pacific you can join the Indivisible organizing and policy teams for an update on how to push your Democratic Members of Congress to stand strong for a clean DREAM Act. [RSVP for the call about DREAM Act strategy here.](#)
- **Build relationships for the long haul.** Next Thursday, Indivisible's organizing team will host a webinar on relationship building and 1:1 meetings -- two essential skills for organizing. [RSVP here for the webinar at 8:30 PM Eastern on Thursday December 7](#)

## 2. What Happens to the Tax Bill Next?

**Summary:** Republicans may add provision ending health insurance mandate to tax bill, as suggested by Kevin Brady, Paul Ryan and Trump. Trump says if they don't, he will issue an executive order that will weaken the requirement that taxpayers demonstrate proof of insurance.

### Talking Points:

- **The Tax Scam is not yet law.** Republicans have two options for how to get the Tax Scam across the finish line, and then they have to immediately attend to funding the government.
  - **Option A: “Go To Conference”** - Since the House and Senate passed different versions of the Tax Scam, one option for Republicans is to merge them together by “[going to conference](#).” This is where members of the House and Senate are appointed to a conference committee. The goal is to work out the differences between the bills and put them together into one “conference report” which is then voted on by both the House and Senate.
    - There are a number of [important differences between the two bills](#), first and foremost the repeal of the individual mandate that was included in the Senate version but not the House. There are also differences between the individual tax rates, the estate tax, and the alternative minimum tax.
    - Republicans have all **publicly** said they want to go to conference. Going to conference would more closely resemble “regular order” and allow for some review of what is in these bills. That extends the process of passing the Tax Scam by at least two weeks or so, because they have to appoint conferees, come up with the agreement, and then vote on it in both chambers. Given the deep unpopularity of the Tax Scam, it’s likely **they’ll try to avoid conference at any cost** by instead choosing Option B...
  - **Option B: The House Passes the Senate Bill – As Is** - To really put the pedal to the metal on finishing the Tax Scam, Republicans can instead have the House pass the version just passed by the Senate. Even though Republicans have all *said* they want to go to conference, it would save them a ton of time and trouble to go this route instead. If the votes are there in the House to pass the Senate bill, they will.
    - Look for Speaker Ryan to quietly spend the weekend twisting arms behind the scenes. There is currently a vote scheduled on Monday, December 4 to “instruct conferees” (tell the members of the Conference Committee what to do)—but this could easily be turned into a vote on the Senate bill itself if the votes are there.
- [See what’s next for the Trump Tax Scam with our Policy Team’s analysis of what happens now that the Senate has voted.](#)
- If Republicans go with Option A, it will mean the conference report on the Tax Scam takes a back seat to next week’s main event: finding a way to fund the government by the December 8 deadline. If they go with Option B, and the bill passes the House, it will mean Congress has finished its work on the Tax Scam.
- Congress will need to pass a spending bill (“CR”) to fund the government by December 8 -- and we need EVERY DEMOCRAT IN CONGRESS to pledge to withhold their vote for any CR that doesn’t include the DREAM Act. Republicans are trying to avoid including it in the funding bill, so it’s up to Democrats to stand up for Dreamers.
- This week, the House and Senate will need to pass a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to fund the government before December 8. To pass the CR, they’ll need Democratic votes—which gives Democrats leverage to fulfill their months-long pledge to protect Dreamers from deportation by passing the Dream Act as part of the funding bill. Democrats need to refuse to help Republicans pass a spending bill unless it contains a clean Dream Act.

- The week after next, the House and Senate will likely come together to pass a reconciled version of their Tax Scam that they can send to Trump's desk to sign (assuming the House doesn't pass the Senate's version). There are quite a few differences between the two bills, which means this isn't a done deal yet.

**Our MoCs:**

- [Senator Murray Statement on Senate Passage of GOP Tax Plan](#)
- [Senator Cantwell on Twitter](#)
- [Denny Heck Statement on H.R. 1 To Overhaul Existing Federal Tax Code](#)

**To Do:**

- **Call** and thank our MoCs for standing strong on taxes

### 3. Congress Contact Information

**Local Members:**

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