

# H.R. 3442: Protecting Children of Long-Term Visa Holders Act of 2023

IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. ARE OVER THREE TIMES AS LIKELY AS THE U.S.-BORN POPULATION TO NOT HAVE COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL (27% VS. 8%).

IMMIGRANTS ARE JUST AS LIKELY AS THE U.S.-BORN POPULATION TO HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR MORE (32% VS. 33%).



## WHO IT AFFECTS

People who came to the United States as children with parents who had nonimmigrant visas are among the vulnerable groups affected by this policy. These kids, commonly referred to as "Dreamers," have grown up in the US and are frequently seen as unauthorized immigrants. They might experience a variety of obstacles, such as the possibility of deportation and restricted access to school and career prospects.

The 'America's Children Act of 2023' or the 'Protecting Children of Long-Term Visa Holders Act of 2023' strategy aims to grant selected college graduates who came to the country as children the status of lawful permanent residents.

## STRENGTHS

- The policy offers a route to lawful permanent residency for people who have:
  - lived the majority of their lives in the country,
  - have gone to college,
  - and are not barred from entering the country or subject to deportation.
- Providing this route to recent college graduates:
  - encourages higher education
  - and may raise the educational achievement of this population.



## LIMITATIONS

- The criteria may disqualify some people for whom the 8-year and 10-year presence requirements may not be met for a variety of good reasons.
- It may exclude people who have made other contributions to society or who are seeking education in unconventional ways.
- Does not offer a straight route to citizenship, leaving them in a semi-permanent situation.
- Does not address more complex issues related to immigration reform, such as family reunification, visa backlogs, and border security.



## CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY

- Immigrants make up 13% of the U.S. population but constitute 16% of the labor force.
- Immigrants are 80% more likely than native workers to become entrepreneurs.
- First- and second-generation immigrants are launching businesses across various sectors, from small shops to major tech firms.
- Immigrants are found in a wide range of job categories, including high-wage and middle-wage jobs.

### References

- <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/08/20/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>
- <https://www.epi.org/publication/immigration-facts/>
- <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/09/immigrants-expand-the-us-economy/>

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO IMPROVE THE POLICY

- While this strategy focuses on a particular group of people, comprehensive immigration reform can be undertaken to address the complexities and difficulties of the larger immigration system.
- Consider broadening the eligibility requirements to include those who may not have gone to college but have made positive contributions to society in other ways.
- Explore ideas for a direct and easy road to citizenship for those who obtain lawful permanent residence status as a result of this program.

