

American Dream and Promise Act of 2025

Summary of Key Provisions

Introduced on February 26, 2025 by Representative Sylvia Garcia (D-TX) with bipartisan co-lead Representative María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), the American Dream and Promise Act of 2025 ([H.R. 1589](#)) would provide **permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship** for eligible Dreamers. It would also allow certain individuals who had or were otherwise eligible for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) or Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) to obtain lawful permanent resident status.

In July 2026, Representative Garcia filed a [discharge petition](#) seeking to bring the bill to the House floor. The petition, which **opened for signatures on July 20**, requires the support of 218 House members. The underlying resolution, H. Res. 1414, would provide for consideration of H.R. 1589 with an amendment updating the TPS eligibility cutoff from January 1, 2017, to July 1, 2024. This summary reflects the bill as it would be considered under H. Res. 1414.

The legislation could benefit the [495,320 active DACA recipients](#) as of December 2025, as well as an **estimated two million other Dreamers** who do not have access to DACA, many of whom have lived in the United States for more than a decade. This includes many, but not all, of the approximately [525,000 undocumented students enrolled in U.S. higher education](#), since eligibility would depend on each individual meeting the bill's requirements. The legislation could also provide lawful permanent residence to many of the approximately [1.3 million people who held Temporary Protected Status](#) as of March 2025, as well as eligible DED recipients, subject to the bill's new July 1, 2024 cutoff and other eligibility requirements.

Pathway to Conditional Permanent Residence for Dreamers

The bill would allow eligible Dreamers to obtain lawful permanent resident status on a conditional basis. This status would generally be **valid for 10 years**, unless extended by the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS).

To qualify, applicants generally would need to:

- Have been continuously physically present in the United States since January 1, 2021;
- Have been 18 years old or younger when they initially entered the United States and have continuously resided here since that entry;
- Meet applicable admissibility, criminal background, and national security requirements;
- Meet an education-related requirement;
- Register for the Selective Service, if required; and
- Pay an application fee, unless eligible for an exemption.

Applicants could satisfy the education-related requirement if they have:

- Been admitted to a U.S. institution of higher education;
- Been admitted to a postsecondary career and technical education school;
- Earned a U.S. high school diploma, GED or recognized equivalent, secondary-level career and technical education credential, or recognized postsecondary credential; or
- Enrolled in secondary school or a qualifying program leading to one of these credentials.

The bill would also allow applicants who already satisfy the requirements for removal of conditional status when they first apply to receive lawful permanent resident status without first spending time in conditional status. DACA recipients who remain eligible for renewal under the terms of the program in effect on January 1, 2017, would have access to a streamlined application process that generally would not require a fee.

Relief for Certain Documented Dreamers

The Dreamer pathway would also cover certain young people who came to the United States as **dependents of individuals admitted under E-1, E-2, H-1B, or L visas** and who may age out of lawful dependent status because of lengthy green card backlogs.

This provision is highly relevant to higher education because many Documented Dreamers have been educated in U.S. schools and colleges but may face disruption to their studies, work authorization, and future careers **if they age out of dependent status at 21**.

Removal of Conditions and Pathway to Citizenship

Dreamers granted conditional permanent resident status could have the conditions removed once they meet the bill's additional requirements. They **could then pursue citizenship through the existing naturalization process**. The bill provides three principal pathways, with limited hardship exceptions:

- **Education pathway:** Earning a degree from a U.S. institution of higher education; completing at least two years, in good standing, in a U.S. program leading to a bachelor's or higher degree; or earning a qualifying postsecondary career and technical education credential.
- **Military service pathway:** Serving in the Uniformed Services for at least two years and, if discharged, receiving an honorable discharge.
- **Employment pathway:** Demonstrating earned income for periods totaling at least three years and for at least 75 percent of the time the applicant held valid employment authorization. Qualifying periods of enrollment would reduce the three-year requirement.

Permanent Residence for Certain TPS and DED Holders

The American Promise portion of the legislation would allow eligible TPS and DED beneficiaries to adjust **directly to lawful permanent resident status** without an initial conditional period.

Applicants generally would need to:

- Apply within three years after the bill's enactment;
- Have been continuously physically present in the United States for at least three years;
- Meet applicable admissibility and background-check requirements; and
- Have had or otherwise been eligible for TPS on July 1, 2024, or been eligible for DED on January 20, 2021, without subsequent conduct making them ineligible for those protections.

Federal Student Aid and State Tuition Policies

By granting eligible applicants lawful permanent resident status, whether conditional or unconditional, the legislation would generally make them eligible to **apply for federal student aid**, subject to the other requirements governing federal aid eligibility.

The bill would also repeal section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, **removing the federal restriction on states providing higher education benefits**, including in-state tuition, to undocumented students based on residence.

Protections During the Application Process

Individuals who appear eligible would have a reasonable opportunity to apply and generally could not be removed while their applications and available appeals remain pending. Applicants could also seek employment authorization and advance parole while their cases are being considered.

Confidentiality Protections

The bill would prohibit the use or disclosure for immigration enforcement purposes of information submitted through an application under the Act or a DACA request. It would also generally prohibit referrals to Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Customs and Border Protection based solely on application information.

For applications under the Act, limited exceptions would permit information sharing for application review, fraud prevention, national security, or the investigation or prosecution of a felony unrelated to immigration status.



Learn more on the Higher Ed Immigration Portal.