

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group
DATE: May 29th, 2019
RE: **NEW SURVEY** – Voters nationwide overwhelmingly support citizenship bill for Dreamers

Voters nationwide and across party lines are resoundingly in favor of granting citizenship to Dreamers. Support for this proposal is strong and resilient, with voters continuing to support the proposal by an overwhelming margin even after they are exposed to a series of negative messages against the idea.

Further, voters want to see a potential citizenship bill grant Dreamers access to in-state college tuition and federal student aid, would much prefer the legislation provide full citizenship and not only legal status, and are not persuaded by arguments that Dreamers should be excluded categorically because of some criminal records. Key findings from Global Strategy Group's recent nationwide survey of 800 likely November 2020 general election voters are as follows:

KEY SURVEY FINDINGS:

- **Voters support citizenship for Dreamers by a commanding margin.** Just over three-quarters of voters (77% support/18% oppose) support a proposal that would make Dreamers eligible for citizenship if they meet certain criteria – including having lived in the United States for at least four years, having entered the country under the age of 18, attending high school or a work credential program, and passing a background check.

This public support is strong, with over two in five (44%) “strongly” supporting the proposal, and also spans partisan lines as majorities of Democrats (90% support/6% oppose), independents (71%/17%), and Republicans (64%/31%) are all in favor.

- **Voters are more supportive of full citizenship for Dreamers than permanent legal status.** When asked if they would support a bill with the same criteria for Dreamers to stay in the country but with legal status and not full citizenship, voters are much more split (49% support/36% oppose) than on the proposal for full citizenship. Replacing citizenship with legal status in the proposed legislation causes support for the proposal to drop among Democrats (from 90% to 50%), independents (71% to 46%), and Republicans (64% to 48%).
- **Support for a citizenship bill for Dreamers stands up in the face of negative attacks.** After a robust simulated debate that includes statements from supporters of the proposal as well as typical anti-immigrant messaging about MS-13 and “amnesty”, voters end up supporting the proposal by a greater than two-to-one margin (66% support/27% oppose).
- **Americans widely support making Dreamers eligible for Pell Grants and in-state college tuition.** In addition to citizenship, voters support a series of additional possible components of a Dreamer bill – including allowing Dreamers to receive in-state tuition at public colleges and universities (63% support/27% oppose), allowing Dreamers who had previously been deported to apply for re-entry and citizenship (61%/29%), and allowing Dreamers to apply for federal student aid such as Pell Grants (59%/29%).

- **Voters are opposed to deporting Dreamers based on contact with the criminal justice system.** After learning examples of common grounds for inadmissibility such as DUI, voters overwhelmingly agree more with the statement that *“Deportation is too serious an added punishment for misdemeanor offenses, especially considering that they will have already served their sentences and been held accountable through the criminal justice system”* (69%) than the statement that *“We should deport any Dreamer convicted of any misdemeanor crime, even if they have served their sentences and completed all court requirements related to their cases”* (31%).
- **Americans are highly receptive to arguments that a citizenship bill would keep Dreamers in the country they know as their home and would stop families from being separated.** Nearly half of voters nationwide rate the following two messages as “very convincing” reasons to support the citizenship proposal:
 - It will allow Dreamers who grew up in the United States and know it as their home to stay in the country legally, instead of deporting them to a country that they may not even remember and where they may not even speak the language (49% very convincing)
 - It will keep families together by making sure hundreds of thousands of young U.S. citizen children can stay with their parents who are Dreamers (48% very convincing)

When shown a list of facts and statistics about the Dreamer population, the top facts that make Americans more favorable toward Dreamers are that:

- Over 90% who applied for legal status under previous programs had their applications approved by the U.S. government
- Many work in important jobs, such as teachers and paramedics
- They have been in the United States since an average age of six years old

ABOUT THIS SURVEY

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 800 likely November 2020 voters nationwide between May 20-22, 2019. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of the expected electorate are properly represented based on historical turnout.