



## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

### GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL STUDENT GOVERNMENT

15th Session – November 29, 2022

GPSG

D.R. # 8

Sponsor: **Delegate** Austin McLellan, College of Law on behalf of Governmental Relations  
Director Guadalupe and International Affairs Director Adamu

GPSG Action: **Passed**/Failed/Tabled

#### A RESOLUTION

Encouraging Senators and Representatives from Iowa to support federal protections for children of long-term visa holders by supporting America’s Children Act and the amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act which adds age-out protections for children of long-term visa holders to fix gaps in our immigration laws.

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#### Section 1: Short Title

This resolution may be cited as the “Resolution in Support of Age-Out Protections for Children of Long-Term Visa Holders.”

#### Section 2: Discussion

**WHEREAS**, there are more than 250,000 dependent children of long-term nonimmigrant visa holders, also known as Documented Dreamers, who are living in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, these children grow up in the United States, attend American schools, and are educated in American universities holding lawful visas;

**WHEREAS**, the legal protections for children of long-term visa holders expire upon their twenty-first birthday, at which time they lose their opportunity to receive a green card and are expected to self-deport, leaving their families in the United States;

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. immigration system is experiencing unprecedented backlog and delays in processing green card applications, and self-deportation removes previously protected these children from their place in the waiting list;

**WHEREAS**, such policies harm American communities and local businesses by forcing Documented Dreamers, a highly educated demographic, to leave their communities and take their skills into global markets, harming long-term domestic economic and security interests;

**WHEREAS**, the Cato Institute estimates the economic cost of compelling hundreds of thousands of children of long-term visa holders who have received the investment of American public education and public service resources to self-deport exceeds \$30 billion;

**WHEREAS**, such policies inhibit America from attracting and retaining talent from around the world by creating barriers for families to immigrate to America;

**WHEREAS**, Documented Dreamers are among the diverse and high-achieving student body of the University of Iowa;

**WHEREAS**, the Graduate and Professional Student Government has the responsibility to advocate for students who have been harmed by prevailing systems and institutions;

**WHEREAS**, the interests of the student body of the University of Iowa, should be reflected in the priorities of our representatives in state and federal government;

**WHEREAS**, current policy debates in the United States Senate and House of Representatives are presenting bipartisan opportunities for the advancement of protections for children of long-term visa holders;

**WHEREAS** Senator Joni Ernst, Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks, Ashley Hinson, and former Representative Cindy Axne of Iowa are co-sponsors of S. 2753 and H.R. 4331 (America's Children Act), highlighting bipartisan support to create age-out protections;

**WHEREAS**, On July 14th, 2022, House Amendment 923 to H.R 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 was included and passed along with the rest of the legislation in the United States House by a vote count of 329-101; and

**WHEREAS**, On September 29th, 2022, Senate Amendment 6165 to the H.R 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 was introduced and cosponsored by 5 Democrat Senators and 5 Republican Senators.

### **Section 3: Action**

*Resolved*, the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) at the University of Iowa recognizes that these immigrant children are an incredible asset to the University of Iowa, the State of Iowa, and the country as a whole.

*Therefore*, GPSG will strive to elevate the voices of and advocate for Documented Dreamers.

*Therefore and be it Resolved*, GPSG respectfully encourages the representatives of Iowa at the state and federal level to support protections for children of long-term visa holders to remove age-out issues in current immigration laws.

**Section 4: Enactment**

**THEREFORE**, be it enacted by the University of Iowa Graduate and Professional Student Government upon the signature of the President.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

*Grace Bryant*  
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Cabinet Director

APPROVED:

*Amber D. Crow*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GPSG President

11/30/2022

Date