

The Consequences of Inaction

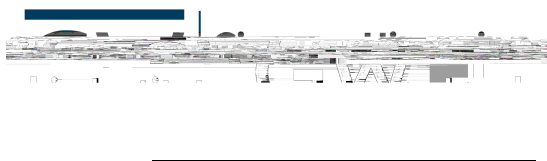
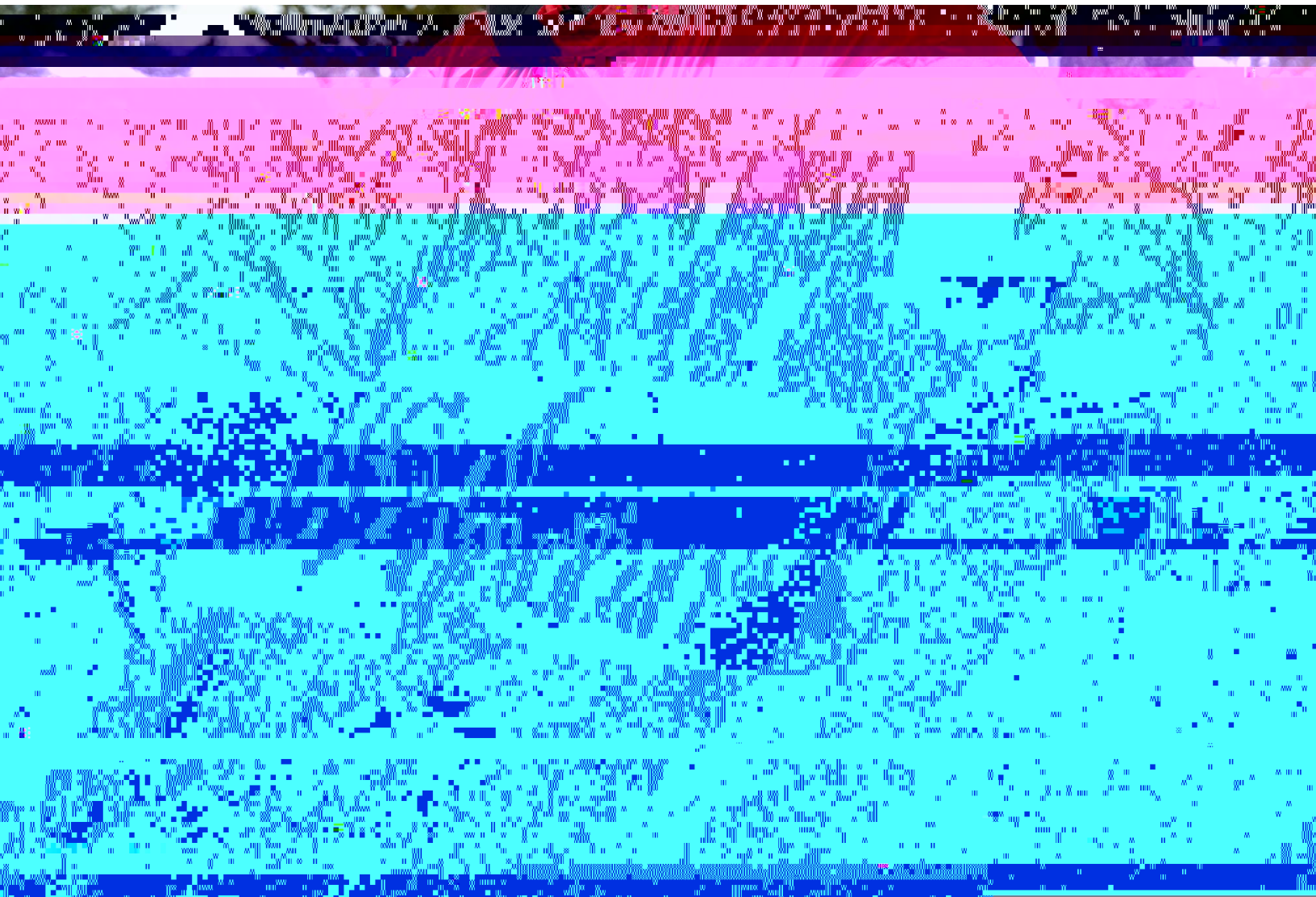


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I. INTRODUCTION

Throughout its whole existence, DACA has been used as a bargaining chip, a wedge issue, and a rallying cry. Much of the dialogue has concentrated on what will happen to DACA recipients if DACA finally ends. However, there has been less emphasis on the consequences of leaving DACA recipients to live in uncertainty, waiting for Congress to act. What has this back-and-forth meant for people with DACA?

Incorporation Outcomes among Young Adults *document Against DACA* *tion, Emotions*

As DACA is continually used as a political wedge without any Congressional resolution, Dreamers suffer sociological, mental, and emotional damage, despite the benefits DACA provides. **The wait is not neutral.**

II. PURPOSE

All names have been changed to protect their privacy.

Storytelling and Advocacy

Section VI: Additional Resources

Talking points

permanent solution

it was never meant as a



V. NARRATIVE REPOSITORY

Mental and Emotional Health

Name:

Arrival Age:

Current Age:

Country of Origin:

"It made me angry. It definitely. . . messed with me mentally a lot. My brother as well. Actually, my brother attempted to k—to take his life recently when we found that out. . . We stopped him from doing that. He's just, he's okay. He's kind of numb. You know he's just kind of living day-to-day going with it. I felt that feeling before. It's just nothing I can do for him."

"I was more relieved to see the reaction from people, the protest and. . . I mean DACA is famous now, before, no one knew what it was. . . Even though it still breaks me cause I, I'm, I'm waiting for the clock to run out 'cause I have a feeling that it's run out. . . I think it encouraged me, the anger, anger, anger is better for me than depression. . ."

Name:

Arrival Age:

Current Age:

Country of Origin:

". . . it was really hard. I'll be honest with you; I cried the day Trump was elected. I've never cried in my life [laughs]. I think that day my family we all. . . It was silent. My mom was crying. I was secretly crying. . . 'cause in that time he was always saying, 'Oh, you know, I'm going to get rid of DACA and everything,' and now he did. . . I was already thinking the worst like, 'Oh I'm going to get deported'—it was hard. . . Like honestly when you have a president, when you have someone that literally says that you're evil. It's like, I don't know, it's not the same anymore. You feel like you're not welcomed. You feel like you're unwanted."

The Toll of Uncertainty After 2016

Name:
Current Age:

Arrival Age:
Country of Origin:

"When Trump was elected, that was one of my fears. . . thinking about [the DACA rescission], I know it's going to happen and now actually it happened. . . I felt like it was the end."

"Probably we have to realize within ourselves. . . we have to accept that we don't belong here."

Name:
Current Age:

Arrival Age:
Country of Origin:

"I was definitely fearful for myself because I probably, one or two months prior, applied for my current term [of DACA]. . . So, I knew that I would be okay for about a year-and-a-half of time, but I was definitely worrying, 'What would this mean for me? Would I get to reapply for this later on? Is something going to be figured out in the next year or two years?'"

"It's definitely been more fearful. I recall, for example, my boyfriend and I were just messaging each other over the phone as, like, we found out [Trump] was elected. And we just already knew that it was his intention to do something drastically different with immigration policy. So, that was concerning for me and

is like, damn. It's very difficult to accept. And that's kind of where I am at. Just accepting what I have to let go."

Name:
Current Age:

Arrival Age:
Country of Origin:

"If you try to do something really, really long that takes eight years or whatever, because I want to be a psychiatrist, so by the time. . . you imagine it takes eight to ten years. . . The way they play with DACA, it's not safe to be. . . DACA is the only way I can get my education. They take DACA away, it's going to be hard. . . Right now, you don't know if they're going to take DACA. Right now, I've got to change to. . . nurse or something, something quick that you can get."

Name:
Current Age:

Arrival Age:
Country of Origin:

"I got really scared, like, I got sad, and I started thinking—I started feeling hopeless, you know, like, just more of, like, 'Oh, like, now, I have to really think, like—I was also pressured, like, I felt like there was, like, a time clock thing, because my DACA will expire, like, you know, soon and everything, and I was thinking, 'Well, now, I have until this year to finish whatever I have to do, like, getting the degree and everything,' so sometimes, I feel pressured."

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