

Friends:

Today, the House is expected to vote on H.R. 5272, which would severely limit President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. **The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) strongly urges your boss to vote no on this bill.**

The DACA program currently provides relief for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children as long as they do not have a criminal history and are in school or have graduated. DACA allows these young people to come out of the shadows and live fully within their communities. H.R. 5272 would prevent the President from expanding this successful program. HRC believes that DACA is vital and should not be curtailed.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) immigrants would be particularly harmed by this legislation. In nearly a third of countries around the world, it is a crime to be LGBT. Thousands of people every year are arrested, harassed and even murdered because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Sending LGBT immigrants back to these countries would gravely threaten their health and safety.

**Again, we urge your boss to vote against H.R. 5272.**

Best,

David Stacy  
Government Affairs Director  
Human Rights Campaign



Any minute Congress may vote on a bill that puts the women and children at our southern border in grave danger.

We must provide families and children in need with protection, not deportation. We need your help to ensure that any legislation Congress passes provides real solutions and protections for vulnerable children.

**Take 5 minutes to call 1-866-940-2439 and urge your representative to vote NO on H.R. 5230 right now** (the phone line was set up by our friends at Church World Services).

H.R. 5230 rolls back crucial anti-trafficking protections and access to asylum for the children and families fleeing extreme violence in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala and seeking refuge in the US. The bill will expedite the deportation of families and children back to dangerous violence and threats against their safety and lives.

**Take action today: call 1-866-940-2439 and urge your representative to vote NO on H.R. 5230 right now.**

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For more information on the bill, read the American Immigration Lawyers Association's reasons for opposing H.R. 5230:

H.R. 5230 erodes fundamental protections for victims of persecution and trafficking and violates principles of fairness and due process that are the foundations of the American legal system. It fails to offer a meaningful solution to the humanitarian situation on the Southwest border by focusing funding almost exclusively on enforcement rather than the protection and shelter of vulnerable children and families fleeing violence. It offers insufficient funding for immigration judges and none for legal counsel for children, both which if adequately funded would more effectively provide long-term solutions for upholding due process while protecting vulnerable women and children.

The bill erodes protections for unaccompanied children coming from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras by pushing them through an inadequate screening process by CBP and a rushed hearing before an immigration judge. Children would be forced to present their case before a judge within 7 days. There is no review or appeals process for this swift decision by the judge. Vulnerable children who speak little or no English cannot prepare a legal case in mere days, even more so without counsel, medical and mental health counseling, or a safe environment in which they can speak of personal experiences that may involve violence and trauma.

The rushed hearing process will compel children to come forward before they may be psychologically or physically ready to talk about sensitive traumatic events. For child victims or witnesses of rape, sexual assault or child abuse, it can often take weeks, months or longer before they are able to speak about such crimes.

The House bill will subject thousands of children to a flawed screening process like the one used on Mexican children. A 2014 confidential UNHCR report concluded that the process used for Mexicans has sent children right back into the dangers from which they fled. CBP lacks training to screen for asylum and trafficking, and there is widespread bias among its officers against protecting children