

Republican Perspective
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DREAMING OF A SHUTDOWN

“Government by blackmail is incompatible with democracy.”
Congressman Jerrold Nadler, NY (D)

It is a little over seventy-two years since the U.S. was victorious in World War II. It is hard to believe, that the Democrat Party that led the country to victory, is now the Party to lead a shutdown of the federal government. Not over true budget concerns, like funding for our military, Social Security and Medicare. No, shut it down over individuals residing in the country illegally. This is how far left the Democrat Party has turned, putting the demands of illegals ahead of the real needs of American citizens.

Let's try and provide a little background. The “DREAM Act,” is an acronym for “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act.” Originally, the legislation was called the Students Adjustment Act (SAA). This did not meet with Senator Dick Durbin's (D) flare for the dramatic, so he renamed SAA to DREAM. Alas, enter “Dreamers” to American lexicon.

Democrats have been unsuccessful in passing the DREAM Act for 16 years, even when they had super-majorities. It passed the House in 2010 but Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D), could not get 60 votes in the Senate. Five Democrats voted no even though the bill was strongly supported by President Obama.

So who are these Dreamers? They are 690,000 immigrants, that were brought to the U.S. illegally as children and who have grown up here. Per Pew Research, 79% of these illegal immigrants are from Mexico. El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru combined make up 9.7%. Dreamers from European countries are nowhere to be found. Both Republicans and Democrats say they want to find a solution to Dreamer status.

In 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This program permitted immigrants who had been brought to the United States illegally as children and met certain criteria would be considered for temporary lawful status with work authorization. So, the Dreamers are covered by DACA.

President Trump rescinded DACA in September, 2017 over its legality and gave Congress six months to craft legislation to address the Dreamers. March 5th, 2018 is the the date that DACA will officially end. Yet, the Democrats shut down the government on January 20th in a brazen attempt of blackmail. It didn't matter that no legislation had been drafted for Congressional vote.

At a point in time, President Obama recognized the limits of his Constitutional power. But the the political pressure from his base changed (as Democrats say, evolved) his view. Responding in October 2010 to demands that he implement immigration reforms unilaterally, Obama declared, "I am not king. I can't do these things just by myself." In March 2011, he said that with "respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportations through executive order, that's just not the case." In May 2011, he acknowledged that he couldn't "just bypass Congress and change the (immigration) law myself. ... That's not how a democracy works."

In 2012, Obama did it anyway. He put DACA in place to provide pseudo-legal status to illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, including as teenagers. He promised them that they wouldn't be deported and provided them with work authorizations and access to Social Security and other government benefits.

The on-line site Politico, reports that Senate Democrat Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, now says there will be no deal on immigration reform unless Senator Tom Cotton (R) is removed from the negotiations. When you're a Democrat, losing elections don't matter. Bi-partisanship means you agree to our demands.

Mr. Schumer has three decades of involvement in immigration policy. In 1989, when the Immigration Act of 1990 was being crafted, Mr. Schumer stated on the House floor: "only 4 percent of all immigration is employer-sponsored," which "hurts our economy" and "hurts every American." He said that this bill would correct that problem by making immigration based on skills because "immigration should be job related ... it should help America grow economically." He also said "immigration should be as diverse as it once was," because "countries like Ireland, Italy, Poland, and Nigeria ... cannot get people into this country, even though there are many people of that ancestry here." Where have you gone Chuck Schumer?

To meet the publishing deadline, this article is written on January 25th. Do I dare make a prediction? The air smells of a Dreamer amnesty deal...is it the 690,000 currently enrolled in DACA or the 2.7 million illegal immigrants who arrived in the United States before age 16? You make the call!