





Written by [Jack Kenny](#) on July 28, 2014

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Deferred Action Against Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, incorporates provisions of the proposed DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act) that has been introduced several times in Congress, beginning in 2001, but has never been enacted.

One possible course of action Obama may be considering would be to expand DACA to include some family members of those already eligible, bringing millions more under the “deferred action” umbrella. He might also appeal to business lobbies by extending the protection to an estimated one million or more agricultural workers or ease visa restrictions on high-skilled foreign workers. That might dispel some of the growing anger among Republicans over the president’s increasing reliance on executive action to achieve legislative goals. But some critics of the administration’s immigration policy believe the executive actions Obama has already taken have contributed to the current border crisis. Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has argued that the sharp rise in the number of children captured at the border, from 6,000 in 2011 to an estimated 90,000 this year, is a “direct foreseeable consequence” of Obama’s decision to halt deportation of childhood arrivals. Cruz has been leading the opposition to the administration’s \$3.7 billion funding request to deal with the crisis at the border, insisting that Obama first repeal the DACA order.

Obama is not likely to do that, since it would create a resounding revolt in the ranks of his Latino and Hispanic supporters. The administration has, however, said it would support repealing a provision of a 2008 law, signed by President George W. Bush, that grants administrative hearings to illegal border crossers from countries other than Mexico or Canada. That law created a huge backlog of immigration cases for unaccompanied minors who have made their way up from Central America. Whatever happens to the children, it’s clear Obama will push his immigration reform agenda through the fall elections and beyond.

“Are [the Republicans] going to go back and try to pass comprehensive immigration reform — [after] which the president will rip up whatever executive action he does the day they pass that?” Pfeiffer asked in his interview with the *Monitor*. “Or are they basically going to set themselves up for the next two and a half years here to be arguing to elect a Republican in order to deport all these people?”

*Photo is of the opening segment of the Emancipation Proclamation*



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