

## The Dream Act Killed by Heartless Senators

Written by U.S Immigration News

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I watched with complete disbelief how President Obama fought for gays and lesbians alleged rights with the lame-duck Congress and how he celebrated the passage of a law to grant them their so-called rights in the military. I would not be surprised later to find out that deals were cut just like the infamous deals surrounding the passage of the health care law. Shame on all those heartless Senators who voted against the passage of the Dream Act! How could they look at those young people suffering in the United States and vote against it

Who else is to blame than President Obama for not being there for immigrants of the United States? They use us to play their political games. He is the commander in chief, elected to work for the people. He made a promise but has not made it good. You cannot say he has no control over the Senators? If that is true, how come they were able to pass the gay rights bill? I remember when Yankees were not performing too well few years ago even though Joe Torre was one of the best managers they ever had and he had won many World Series for them. Yet, he was the first to be fired when they were not doing well. Let's vote President Obama out; he is not on the side of immigrants. For two years now, we have been given false hope as immigrants.

How is it possible for 6 Democratic Party Senators to vote against the Dream Act under President Obama's watch? You cannot blame the Republicans. At least three Republicans voted "Yes". If all Democrats voted in favour, we would have had 61 votes to move the Dream Act to pass. The President did not do his job in lobbying and rallying his troop in support of the Dream Act. It's always that way when the issue has to do with immigrants. 4 Senators were too timid to cast their votes one way or the other. This is how they all voted. Let's remember to vote against them too. Let's remember to say 'No' to those heartless Senators in 2012.

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### Grouped By Vote Position

#### YEAs ---55

Akaka (D-HI)  
Bayh (D-IN)  
Begich (D-AK)  
Bennet (D-CO)  
Bennett (R-UT)  
Bingaman (D-NM)  
Boxer (D-CA)  
Brown (D-OH)  
Cantwell (D-WA)  
Cardin (D-MD)  
Carper (D-DE)  
Casey (D-PA)  
Conrad (D-ND)  
Coons (D-DE)  
Dodd (D-CT)  
Dorgan (D-ND)  
Durbin (D-IL)  
Feingold (D-WI)  
Feinstein (D-CA)

Franken (D-MN)  
Gillibrand (D-NY)  
Harkin (D-IA)  
Inouye (D-HI)  
Johnson (D-SD)  
Kerry (D-MA)  
Klobuchar (D-MN)  
Kohl (D-WI)  
Landrieu (D-LA)  
Lautenberg (D-NJ)  
Leahy (D-VT)  
Levin (D-MI)  
Lieberman (ID-CT)

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Lincoln (D-AR)  
Lugar (R-IN)  
McCaskill (D-MO)  
Menendez (D-NJ)  
Merkley (D-OR)  
Mikulski (D-MD)

Murkowski (R-AK)  
Murray (D-WA)  
Nelson (D-FL)  
Reed (D-RI)  
Reid (D-NV)  
Rockefeller (D-WV)  
Sanders (I-VT)  
Schumer (D-NY)  
Shaheen (D-NH)  
Specter (D-PA)  
Stabenow (D-MI)  
Udall (D-CO)  
Udall (D-NM)  
Warner (D-VA)  
Webb (D-VA)  
Whitehouse (D-RI)  
Wyden (D-OR)

### **NAYs ---41**

Alexander (R-TN)  
Barrasso (R-WY)  
Baucus (D-MT)  
Bond (R-MO)  
Brown (R-MA)  
Brownback (R-KS)  
Burr (R-NC)

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Chambliss (R-GA)  
Coburn (R-OK)  
Cochran (R-MS)  
Collins (R-ME)  
Corker (R-TN)  
Cornyn (R-TX)  
Crapo (R-ID)

DeMint (R-SC)  
Ensign (R-NV)  
Enzi (R-WY)  
Graham (R-SC)  
Grassley (R-IA)  
Hagan (D-NC)  
Hutchison (R-TX)  
Inhofe (R-OK)  
Isakson (R-GA)  
Johanns (R-NE)  
Kirk (R-IL)  
Kyl (R-AZ)  
LeMieux (R-FL)  
McCain (R-AZ)

McConnell (R-KY)  
Nelson (D-NE)  
Pryor (D-AR)  
Risch (R-ID)  
Roberts (R-KS)  
Sessions (R-AL)  
Shelby (R-AL)  
Snowe (R-ME)  
Tester (D-MT)  
Thune (R-SD)  
Vitter (R-LA)  
Voinovich (R-OH)  
Wicker (R-MS)

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### Not Voting - 4

Bunning (R-KY)  
Gregg (R-NH)

Hatch (R-UT)  
Manchin (D-WV)

You can tell that I am not really happy about the failure of the Dream Act. Maybe with proper publicity, President Obama can still redeem his image with immigrants in the next two years

The next two years of Obama's presidency might squeeze time for all immigrants. Every immigrant must be ready to maximize the gain of every little opportunity that might come their way to obtain their permanent resident status.

From time to time, U.S. Immigration News will highlight on a monthly basis any available openings that could be beneficial to the immigrant. Our goal is to work towards legalization of all immigrants one person at a time this year 2011.

The Democratic Party's control of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress was a complete failure as far as an immigrant is concerned. They promised and failed. Harry Reid, the Senate President ought to

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be ashamed of himself for baiting immigrants with the Dream Act to win re-election only to abandon them few days later.

The Dream Act was about children brought into the United States legally or illegally before the age of sixteen. A large fraction of the estimated 12 million undocumented aliens in the United States today are these children who after completing High School or College currently face the reality of their illegal status. The country they grew up knowing as home now draws a line and set barriers to their ability to fulfil their dream of being useful to humanity.

It is estimated that about 2 million immigrants in the U.S. would have qualified for the Dream Act if passed into law. It has also been projected by experts that about 800,000 of them would have applied for the benefit.

In summary, the Dream Act would have provided illegal aliens who entered the United States before the age of sixteen and who were under 36 with benefits much quicker than their parents, because they were brought to the United States without any input in the decisions that brought them here. As previously proposed, these aliens would have been able to apply for permanent residence after 3 or 6yrs on a probationary status. These categories of aliens were required to meet certain requirements which included amongst others that "the alien has demonstrated good moral character. The alien should not have abandoned the alien's residence in the United States. The DHS Secretary was to presume that the alien had abandoned such residence if the alien was absent from the United States for more than 365 days, in the aggregate, unless the alien demonstrates that alien had not abandoned the alien's residence. An alien who was absent from the United States due to active service in the uniformed services has not abandoned the alien's residence in the United States during the period of such service. The alien was required to have completed at least 1 of the following: (i) acquired a degree from an institution of higher education in the United States or had completed at least 2 years, in good standing, in a program for a bachelor's degree or higher degree in the United States. (ii) Served in the uniformed services for at least 2 years and, if discharged, received an honorable discharge.

Let me just say emphatically that it is not over with the Dream Act. With proper publicity and education of the American people through the media, the Dream Act could still be passed during President Obama's presidency. I hope the President will do what is necessary to lead in this area.

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