

## [Senate Democrats Reintroduce Dream Act](#)

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**Highlight:** [Senate Democrats](#) are [reintroducing](#) an immigration bill that would give legal status to some illegal immigrants who came into the United States as children.

### **Body**

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On the heels of [President Obama](#)'s renewed call [to overhaul the nation's immigration laws](#) in Texas on Tuesday, [Senate Democrats](#) are [reintroducing](#) a bill that would give legal status to some illegal immigrants who came into the United States as children.

Senator [Harry Reid](#) of Nevada, the majority leader, along with Senators [Dick Durbin](#) of Illinois and [Robert Menendez](#) of New Jersey, said the [Senate](#) will revive the [Dream Act](#), one of the few signature pieces of Democratic legislation [that failed during the lame-duck session](#) of the last Congress, when [Democrats](#) controlled both chambers.

The bill would provide legal status and a path to citizenship to young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children and receive a college education or want to enter the military. Under the bill, students who who came to the United States when they were 15 or under, have been in the country continually at least five years, present "good moral character," graduate from high school or obtain a G.E.D., and complete two years of college or military service in good standing would qualify.

Backers of the measure - which has failed to gain the support of Republicans - say that the bill would provide a path for more educated young people into the military and work force, and give a break to young people who did not have agency in their illegal entry into the country.

Opponents argue that the bill constitutes amnesty, and that Congress should focus on border security before considering paths to legal status for illegal immigrants.

The bill has been the subject of legislative passion for Mr. Reid and Mr. Durbin, the [Senate](#)'s No. 2 [Democrat](#), who has said he would try to pass the [Dream Act](#) as long as he is a senator.

"It didn't pass in the [Senate](#) last year when they had 59 [Democrats](#)," said Don Stewart, a spokesman for Senator [Mitch McConnell](#), the minority leader from Kentucky, who has said repeatedly that he does not support the bill. "There are some questions about its chances this year."

- [Obama Courts Latino Voters With Immigration Speech](#)
- [In Budget Bill, a Dispute Over Border Security](#)
- [We Can Finish By Christmas, Reid Says](#)

## Senate Democrats Reintroduce Dream Act

- [\*Making Sense of the 111th Congress as the End Nears\*](#)
- [\*Senate Democrats Put 'Dream Act' on Hold\*](#)

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