## Summary of Ryan's Updated DACA Bill-- Updated as of 5 pm 6/19/18

## Talking points on the Ryan bill here.

The House is about to vote on a Frankenstein immigration bill that would provide only limited legal protection to DACA-eligible individuals and includes dangerous provisions that would put children in jail for months or even years. **The bill does not end family separations.** 

Keeps Children in Jail Indefinitely and Funds Family Immigration Jails with almost \$7 Billion. Families are being separated because Trump and Jeff Sessions are choosing to implement a zero-tolerance policy of criminally prosecuting all persons seeking asylum between ports of entry. Rather than end this policy, the bill trades one form of child abuse for another and leaves the underlying policy intact. This bill would jail children and their families for months or even years while the criminal prosecution is pending and through subsequent immigration proceedings in worse conditions without adequate protections for children. In order to fund the newly expanded child prisons, the bill authorizes nearly \$7 billion dollars for the jails and preempts state licensing requirements for facilities holding children. The bill also overrides the Flores settlement agreement which required the facilities to meet basic sanitation requirements, including clean drinking water, food, medical assistance and adequate temperature control. This bill endangers the wellbeing of all immigrant children in the government's custody and furthermore, it does not end the family separation policy. The bill does nothing to prevent family separation when: (1) parents who plead guilty and are sentenced to even one additional day in jail; (2) parents charged with illegal reentry; and (3) families applying for asylum at ports of entry. These situations are simply left unaddressed.

Makes it Easier to Deport More Children More Quickly. In 2000, Congress unanimously passed, and President Bush signed into law, the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which ensures that children aren't returned to dangerous - and sometimes deadly - situations. This Republican bill would allow DHS to quickly deport children to some of the most dangerous countries on earth. In 2018, Honduras <u>ranked</u> first in the world for child homicides, El Salvador ranked fourth and Guatemala sixth.

**Funds \$23 Billion for the Border Wall and Military Technology.** This bill authorizes Congress to spend \$23.4 billion dollars for a physical border wall and military technology, including unmanned drones.

**Authorizes over 50,000 CBP Agents and Officers.** This bill requires CBP to maintain over 50,000 agents and officers without any additional oversight mechanisms. The bill includes a 30% increase in Border Patrol officers.

Locks 82% of Dreamers Out of a Path to Citizenship. Not only does the bill use the outdated eligibility criteria from the 2012 DACA program, but it does not even cover all DACA eligible youth, for example, it does not cover people with final orders of removal among others. The bill even includes Orwellian language authorizing DHS to remove applicants who otherwise meet the stringent eligibility requirements. The CATO Institute estimates 82% of Dreamers won't benefit from a path to citizenship. Dreamers are at the mercy of an untested point system that creates a confusing, convoluted path to citizenship. Some Dreamers who don't have enough "points" would never get a path to citizenship. The bill also holds Dreamers hostage. If even \$1 of border funds is ever transferred, the path to citizenship is eliminated. Every future funding battle sets up a showdown where Republicans can use the threat of a shutdown to eliminate the path to permanent residence. The bill gives the anti-immigrant agenda a permanent seat at the table.

**Prohibits U.S. Citizens from Reuniting with their Children and with their Siblings.** This bill blocks American citizens from reuniting with their married adult children and siblings abroad. U.S. citizen family members who have been in line for over a decade, paid the U.S. government all of the required fees and filed all of their

paperwork would no longer be able to stay in line for a green card. This bill gets rid of two of the lines that families have been waiting in for 10-20 years beginning in 2019.

**Eliminates the Diversity Visa Program.** This bill terminates the Diversity Visa program which ensured our immigration system provided a fair opportunity for immigrants from all countries to enter.

Halves the Number of Asylum-Seekers and Makes it Easier to Send Families Back to Their Death. This bill makes it harder for asylum seekers to obtain freedom from persecution by increasing the standard of proof needed to apply for asylum. It's estimated the changes in the bill would halve the number of asylum seekers. By changing the law to facilitate the quick deportations of asylum seekers and make it harder to apply for asylum, parents and children who could articulate a genuine fear of persecution will be deported anyway without the chance to collect evidence or present witnesses before a judge.

**Potential Misclassification of Innocents as Gang Members.** This bill lets immigration officers label young people as gang members with little to no evidence, only a "reason to believe" the person is or was a gang member.

Mandated Compliance with ICE Detainers. This bill forces local governments to implement ICE detainers which have been found to create constitutional concerns, subjecting cities to potential civil lawsuit liability. The resulting perception that local police are participating in immigration enforcement will reduce cooperation among victims and witnesses and make everyone less safe.