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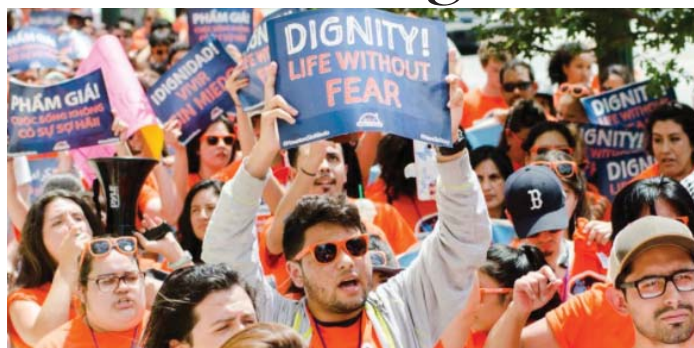
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## FEATURED Q&A

# Will Immigration Reform Get Through the U.S. Congress ?



U.S. President Donald Trump ordered an end to the Obama-era Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program and called on Congress to replace it. A pro-immigrant rights rally is pictured above. // File Photo: United We Dream.

**Q** Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer (N.Y.) and House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi (Calif.) announced this month that they had agreed to work together with U.S. President Donald Trump on legislation to protect immigrants who entered the United States illegally as children and have for years been allowed to stay under an Obama administration measure, known as DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals). Does Trump's apparent willingness to work on the issue with Democratic leadership portend compromise on the issue? How likely is it that a revised version of DACA will pass through Congress, and what changes would new legislation encompass? How is the debate over immigration affecting U.S.-Mexico relations?

**A** Adriano Espailat, member of the U.S. House of Representatives (D-N.Y.): "I believe Trump is playing everyone, including his base. My priority is to continue to urge Republican leadership and my Republican colleagues to pass a clean DREAM Act without delay. Democrats are adamant that any solution to the challenge facing Dreamers must include the bipartisan DREAM Act. Once a deal has been made, members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus must be at the table. Not only must a final agreement protect 800,000 young American Dreamers, but it also must reflect the values of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and the interests of immigrant communities across the country. The bipartisan, bicameral DREAM Act co-sponsored by Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard and Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen would allow a select group of immigrant students who grew up in the United States

Continued on page 3

## TODAY'S NEWS

### ECONOMIC

## U.S. Demands Reportedly Stoking Concerns at NAFTA Talks

U.S. negotiators are reportedly making demands that their Mexican and Canadian counterparts would never agree to, raising concerns about the ability of the three countries to agree on changes to the trade accord by the end of the year.

Page 2

### BUSINESS

## Albemarle Eyes Higher Lithium Output in Chile

Chile's government said it saw no obstacles to allowing the U.S.-based company to increase its annual production limit of the soft metal.

Page 3

### POLITICAL

## Approval Rating of Brazil's Temer Sinks to 3 Percent

In the Ibope poll, 77 percent of respondents said they disapproved of Brazilian President Michel Temer's administration.

Page 2



Temer // File Photo: Brazilian Government.

## POLITICAL NEWS

## Approval Rating of Brazil's Temer Sinks to Just 3 Percent

The approval rating of Brazilian President Michel Temer has sunk to just 3 percent, a historic low, according to a poll released Thursday, the Associated Press reported. The poll by the Ibope Institute showed that 77 percent of respondents disapproved of his administration, while the rest rated his performance as average. In a July poll, Temer had an approval rating of 5 percent, while 70 percent disapproved

**Temer's approval rating is the lowest of any Brazilian president since 1985.**

of his government. No Brazilian president has had a lower approval rating since the country's return to democracy in 1985, the AP reported. Temer's approval rating plummeted this year amid his implication on corruption charges. Brazil's Congress blocked a first corruption charge against Temer in August, saving him from being tried before the Supreme Court. He now faces additional accusations of obstruction of justice and of being a member of a criminal organization in connection with a corruption case involving the owners of meatpacking company JBS, Bloomberg News reported. The lower chamber of Brazil's Congress is expected to vote by mid-October at the earliest on whether Temer should be tried on the new charges. Analysts have expected the lower house to again save him from a trial before the Supreme Court. Temer has shrugged off his low approval ratings and has expressed no plans to run for re-election next year, Bloomberg News reported. He has pursued unpopular austerity measures designed to boost Brazil's financial

credibility. The latest Ibope poll was a survey of 2,000 people in 126 municipalities from Sept. 15-20. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus two percentage points.

## ECONOMIC NEWS

## U.S. Demands Stoking Concerns at NAFTA Talks

U.S. negotiators for the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, are making proposals during the negotiations that their Mexican and Canadian counterparts would never agree to, stoking concerns about whether the three countries will be able to reach their goal of agreeing on changes to NAFTA before the end of the year, Bloomberg News reported Thursday, citing officials familiar with the talks. Proposals from the United States on changes to NAFTA regulations on government procurement, textiles and fresh produce are seen by Mexico and Canada as red-line issues that are unlikely to be agreed upon, the officials



Trump // File Photo: White House.

said. The latest round of talks that ended on Wednesday in Ottawa had a more negative tone than previous rounds of discussions, the officials said. Mexican and Canadian officials expect the United States to present controversial proposals on automotive rules of origin and on an overall U.S.-specific content requirement during the next round of talks, scheduled to take place in Washington from Oct. 11-15. U.S. President Donald Trump has made cutting the trade deficit with Mexico a top priority of the NAFTA negotiations, and the

## NEWS BRIEFS

## World Bank Approves \$150 Mn in Disaster Financing for DR

The World Bank on Thursday approved a \$150 million fund for disaster financing for the Dominican Republic, in order to help the country better prepare for future natural disasters in the wake of two major hurricanes, Reuters reported. The fund is the first contingency line of credit approved by the World Bank for a Caribbean country under the Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option. The program provides countries with financing to help prepare for natural disasters without forcing the government to drain resources allocated for social or development programs.

## Mexican Central Bank Holds Rates Steady

Mexico's central bank on Thursday held its overnight rate steady at 7 percent, signaling it doesn't expect a change in its rates trajectory, despite the two major earthquakes that hit the country this month, the Financial Times reported. The central bank ended its aggressive tightening cycle in June after months of consistently raising the interest rate, saying that a 7 percent overnight rate is consistent with reaching the bank's target inflation rate of 3 percent, plus or minus one percentage point.

## Royal Caribbean Cancels Cruise to Use Ship for Hurricane Relief Efforts

Royal Caribbean said Thursday that it had canceled its cruise on the Adventure of the Seas that had been set to depart from San Juan, Puerto Rico on Saturday in order to use the ship for hurricane relief efforts in the Caribbean. The ship "will operate humanitarian calls in San Juan, St. Thomas and St. Croix to aid in the evacuation and donate critical supplies to each destination," the cruise line said. It added that the ship will take evacuees to Florida.

## FEATURED Q&amp;A / Continued from page 1

to contribute more fully to the country they love. Under current law, they live in fear of deportation and cannot fully realize their potential or utilize their talents in service to the communities, cities and nation they call home. This week, Democrats are filing the DREAM Act Discharge Petition, which would bring the bill to a vote immediately. Members of Congress and the vast majority of Americans agree on giving Dreamers a path to earned citizenship. The relationship between the United States and Mexico is extremely important to all Americans on a daily basis. When President Obama left office, he left behind a relationship with Mexico that was stronger than ever. Under the leadership of Presidents Obama and Peña Nieto, that cooperation reached new heights during the Jan. 19 extradition of drug kingpin 'El Chapo' Guzmán to New York, which was a major victory for both administrations. Such action never would have been possible without a robust U.S.-Mexico partnership. It is crucial that we maintain strong relations with not only our neighboring Mexico, but with our allies around the world."

**A Dan Stein, president of the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) in Washington:** "The president and congressional leaders of both parties working together to solve problems would be a most welcome development. The big question is, will they be working together to address the interests and security of the American people? Senators Schumer and Pelosi want some sort of permanent status for some 800,000 illegal aliens who availed themselves of the constitutionally questionable DACA program. The American public is not unsympathetic to this subset of illegal aliens, and neither is President Trump. But the American people also have some demands. They want their borders secured, their jobs protected from illegal workers, an end to dangerous sanctuary policies and a rational merit-based legal

immigration system. The Democratic leaders are unsympathetic to all of those things. For three decades, the American public has been promised that immigration laws would be enforced, and every one of those promises

“For three decades, the American public has been promised that immigration laws would be enforced.”

— Dan Stein

has been broken. The American people have done nothing wrong, other than to believe that government promises were worth more than the paper they were printed on. DACA recipients, on the other hand, have been promised nothing. Obama made it clear that DACA was a temporary program that might not outlast his presidency. If the Democratic leadership is prepared to act in good faith and accept that major changes in immigration law—the RAISE Act, interior enforcement and Mandatory E-Verify—must first be in place before any move to a DACA legalization, then there might be a basis for a deal. If they insist on amnesty only, the American people will again reject that proposal."

**A Arturo Sarukhan, board member of the Inter-American Dialogue and former Mexican ambassador to the United States:** "By kicking the can toward Capitol Hill, President Trump has Congress contemplating the possibility of a legislative solution for DACA recipients, whose futures now hang in the balance. That a fair and compassionate solution for 800,000 Dreamers exists is clear, as the recently introduced bipartisan 2017 DREAM Act shows. And the simple fact is, voters support DACA; in one recent poll, 58 percent of respondents said Dreamers

Continued on page 4

auto industry is the main source of the United States' \$64 billion gap with Mexico. The U.S. Trade Representative's office did not respond to Bloomberg's requests for comment. [Editor's note: See [Q&A](#) on the NAFTA talks in the Sept. 1 issue of the Advisor.]

## BUSINESS NEWS

## Chile May Allow Albemarle to Produce More Lithium

Chile's government may allow U.S.-based chemical company Albemarle to boost its production of lithium in the South American country, saying it sees no obstacles to approving its request to increase its annual lithium production limit, Reuters reported Thursday. "There's no reason to object to this request," said Eduardo Bitran, head of Chile's CORFO state development agency. "Given the contract we have, this means royalties, more fiscal resources, more investment." Albemarle, headquartered in Charlotte, N.C., asked the development agency to boost its annual limit to 125,000 metric tons, from the current level of 80,000 metric tons. The company said technological advances have allowed it to obtain more lithium without needing to extract a greater amount of brine from northern Chile's Atacama salt flat. Bitran expressed hopes that CORFO's board would take Albemarle's request under consideration by November and give its approval to the change by the end of the year. If the request wins CORFO's approval, Albemarle said it could invest as much as \$1 billion in Chile over the next five years. The so-called "lithium triangle" in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile encompasses the Atacama salt flat. The region contains a large portion of the world's reserves of the soft metal, which is used in the batteries of electric cars. Growing demand for electric vehicles has led to greater investment in lithium and higher production of the metal. [Editor's note: See [Q&A](#) on Chile's plans for lithium production in the Aug. 21 issue of the Advisor.]

## FEATURED Q&amp;A / Continued from page 3

should be allowed to stay, with a path to citizenship. An additional 18 percent favored letting them become legal residents. Only 15 percent opted for deportation. Nonetheless, we shouldn't hold our breath expecting a congressional solution. First, those who attack Obama for having implemented DACA forget that he did so only after legislation

“**At the end of the day, DACA should be about people and not politics or the nativism and xenophobia that is driving this administration.**

— Arturo Sarukhan

to legalize the status of Dreamers failed in 2010; Republicans voted 'no' 160-8 in the House and 36-3 in the Senate; it passed the House but then failed on a Senate filibuster 55-41. With a looming midterm election next year, and the fact that immigration became a third rail of the 2016 GOP primary, the partisan and ideological dynamics that scuppered a deal in the past may only deepen. Second, Democrats will be thinking about the midterms as a referendum on Trump, standing firm against some of the most conspicuous symbols of his policies. At the end of the day, DACA should be about people and not politics or the nativism and xenophobia that is driving this administration. Ending DACA is a self-inflicted wound, undercutting the promise, prosperity and well-being of the United States. It also betrays fellow Americans; the average Dreamer was brought to the United States at age 6, by rule they have been here for at least 10 years and are studying and working, contributing—like all immigrants—to a healthy U.S. economy.”

**A** **Louis DeSipio, professor of political science and chair of Chicano/Latino studies at the University of California Irvine:**

“The willingness of President Trump to work with congressional Democrats to craft a legislative solution to protect DACA is less unusual than it may initially seem. Presidents Bush and Obama worked with congressional leaders of both parties to reform immigration. Each saw the passage of major immigration reform legislation in the Senate, followed by neglect and ultimately legislative failure in the House of Representatives. Considering the rhetoric of Trump's campaign, he is considerably less likely than either of his predecessors to join with leaders of the other party to address an immigration issue in a bipartisan manner. Since his inauguration, however, Trump has signaled sympathy for the plight of DACA recipients and has been reluctant to follow through on his harsh campaign rhetoric, at least as it applied to DACA recipients. President Trump's desire to identify a legislative solution that protects the legal status and work eligibility of DACA recipients, however, faces the same obstacle that the 2006 and 2013 immigration reform bills faced—the U.S. House of Representatives. A bill to protect DACA recipients could certainly pass in the Senate. It could also pass in the House, but it would pass primarily on the votes of House Democrats, supplemented by the votes of moderate Republicans. Speakers Boehner and Ryan have been unwilling to follow this path on immigration legislation. Without leadership from Speaker Ryan and a willingness to pass protections for DACA recipients mostly with the votes of House Democrats, the tentative alliance between President Trump and congressional Democratic leaders will not result in legislation to provide a path to legal status for DACA beneficiaries.”

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