The Secure and Succeed Act

The Secure and Succeed Act, introduced by Sens. Grassley, Cornyn, Tillis, Perdue, Lankford, Cotton, Ernst, is a comprehensive immigration bill that would give President Trump his anti-immigrant wishlist, including an astronomical increase in spending for border security and interior enforcement, authorization for a massive deportation force, and extreme cuts to legal immigration not seen in a century—all in exchange for legal protection for Dreamers. The bill should be rejected outright as devastating to immigrant communities, American families and businesses.

The Secure and Succeed Act Harms America

- The bill authorizes a $25 billion dollar fund for the border wall, technology and infrastructure and other expansions of border and interior enforcement. It insists on an unrealistic and costly standard of blocking all unlawful entries that even North Korea cannot meet.
- The bill would authorize the hiring of new Border Patrol agents and ICE officers that would further increase the Administration’s power to detain and deport immigrants, including the parents of children with cancer, teachers, Dreamers, survivors of domestic abuse. The bill calls for an active duty presence of 26,370 Border Patrol agents, and an increase of 8,500 ICE agents which would more than double the number of interior agents authorized to 16,500.
- The bill cuts most categories of family immigration and would block American citizens from reunifying with their parents, adult children, and siblings. By eliminating the Diversity Visa lottery, the bill disproportionately excludes immigrants from Latin America, Africa, and Asia.
- The bill will cause social upheaval and devastate America’s economy by eliminating an essential labor force critical to economic growth.
- The bill mandates detention for every individual arriving at the border including asylum seekers, driving those seeking humanitarian protection back into harm’s way. It will skyrocket DHS detention costs that have already reached $2 billion.
- Increases immigration detention to at least 48,879 beds.
- The bill lowers protections for children arriving alone at the border victimized by trafficking and gang violence.
- The bill would allow DHS to summarily deport millions of people who came on valid visas for business or to visit family, depriving them of any opportunity for a fair day in court.

The bill claims it will provide legal status for 1.8 million Dreamers. But it uses a restrictive definition for eligibility that will likely exclude thousands of young people. Many elements appear to be based on the Succeed Act.

Resource links

- Detailed analysis of Secure and Succeed Act (based off of summary; analysis of legislative text released last night is forthcoming).
- Message House with Rebuttal Points on a range of issues expected during floor debate.