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## STATES THREATEN TO SUE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVER 'DREAMERS' POLICY

*Some conservatives think president hasn't done enough to crack down on illegal immigration*

By Laura Meckler  
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WASHINGTON – Eleven states led by Texas are threatening to sue the Trump administration if it doesn't follow through on President Donald Trump's campaign promise to end a program that protects young people brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

The threat, conveyed in a letter sent to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, shows how the president is under pressure from conservatives who say he hasn't done enough to crack down on illegal immigration, even as he endures a steady stream of criticism from those on the left who think he is far too harsh.

As a candidate, Mr. Trump promised to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, calling it an "unconstitutional executive amnesty." But since the election, he has said he doesn't want these young people to worry, and his administration has kept the program in place.

That decision has long annoyed people who are otherwise allies on a range of immigration issues.

Mr. Trump's administration has worked to implement a travel ban on people from six Muslim-majority countries that the president deems security risks, has stepped up arrests of people in the U.S. illegally and backed a crackdown on sanctuary cities. But immigration hard-liners say it is unacceptable for him to allow the DACA program, which started under former President Barack Obama, to continue.

The program has given a temporary reprieve from deportation and work permits to about 750,000 young people, termed "dreamers." The administration has approved tens of thousands of new and renewal DACA applications since Mr. Trump took office.

Mr. Obama tried to expand the program to cover parents of U.S. citizens and permanent residents. That was successfully challenged by Texas and other states in court, and the program, sometimes called DAPA, never took effect.

Now 11 states are threatening to amend the complaint in the DAPA suit to challenge DACA if the Trump administration doesn't end it on its own by Sept. 5.

"Just like DAPA, DACA unilaterally confers eligibility for work authorization, and lawful presence without any statutory authorization from Congress," Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton wrote in a letter also signed by nine other attorneys general from Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Nebraska, South Carolina, Tennessee, Idaho and West Virginia, as well as Idaho Gov. C.L. Otter.

All of these states voted for Mr. Trump in the November election.

The letter was addressed to Mr. Sessions, a former senator who has built a reputation as an immigration hard-liner. A spokesman said the Justice Department was reviewing the letter but had no other comment.

Immigrant advocates condemned the states' action. Efrén C. Olivares, racial and economic justice director with the Texas Civil Rights Project, said his group is exploring legal options to protect DACA.

"For years, our attorney general has pursued a misguided agenda to upend the lives of millions of immigrants in Texas, including those who were brought to this country as young children and call Texas home," he said. "Rather than looking out for the well-being of all people in Texas, we are disappointed to see the attorney general focus his energy on attacking immigrant youth."

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