



Pete Ricketts
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

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Speaker Galen Hadley
And Members of the Legislature
State Capitol
Lincoln, NE 68509

Dear Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislature:

I am writing to express major concerns with the broad scope of LB 947. While the debate has been focused on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA youth, I would like to bring to your attention the other individuals that the bill would make eligible for professional licenses.

LB 947 authorizes professional licenses to be issued to anyone who falls under section 202(c)(2)(B)(i) through (ix) of the federal REAL ID Act of 2005. While DACA youth are covered in these sections, the bill also extends Nebraska job licenses to the individuals with the following immigration status:

A person who has a pending application for asylum in the United States (202)(c)(2)(B)(vi)

The bill you are considering would allow someone who has not even been approved for asylum to be work eligible and able to obtain professional licenses after 150 days into their application process.

A person who has a pending or approved application for temporary protected status in the United States (202)(c)(2)(B)(vii)

Temporary protected status, known as TPS, is a statutory safe haven for aliens who may not meet the definition of refugee but who are temporarily fleeing potentially dangerous situations. Those on TPS are not on a path that leads to permanent residence or citizenship. Currently the United States provides TPS to 13 countries: El Salvador, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Syria, and Yemen.

A person who has approved deferred action status (202)(c)(2)(B)(viii)

This section covers the DACA youth. However, it also covers any deferred action status that any President would grant including the 18,000 Deferred Action for Parents of Americans in Nebraska who, depending upon the outcome of the pending *United States v. Texas* litigation, could be eligible for professional licenses. DAPA individuals are illegal immigrants who knowingly and willingly broke the law to enter the United States. These are the parents and immediate relatives who, as adults, evaded federal immigration laws to arrive illegally in the United States.

The proper process to address the granting of legal status is for the President to work with Congress to address our immigration laws. By circumventing our current immigration process, LB947 undermines the rule of law and is unjust to all the immigrants, permanent residents, and naturalized citizens who legally followed the established process.

I respectfully write to ask that you vote against enacting LB 947.

Sincerely


Pete Ricketts
Governor