



**STATEMENT OF ASHWIN MADIA,
INTERIM CHAIRMAN, VOTEVETS.ORG
ON THE DREAM ACT**

“As the child of immigrants who came here seeking a better life, and as someone who served alongside Marines who were not born here, I have seen the commitment to America and her ideals that thousands of immigrants show every day. America has a proud tradition of immigrants serving in the American armed forces and every year, hundreds of active duty immigrants take the oath of citizenship, becoming full members of the nation have sworn to defend.

But because they were brought to the United States as children without authorization, many highly qualified immigrants who grew up in the United States, graduated from American schools and who wish to wear the uniform of our country and put their own lives at risk to protect American citizens are prevented from serving.

The DREAM Act would, rightfully, give young high school graduates who wish to serve, the ability to do so and a path to citizenship. This bipartisan legislation would strengthen the ranks of our armed forces and must be passed. It simply is the right thing to do.”