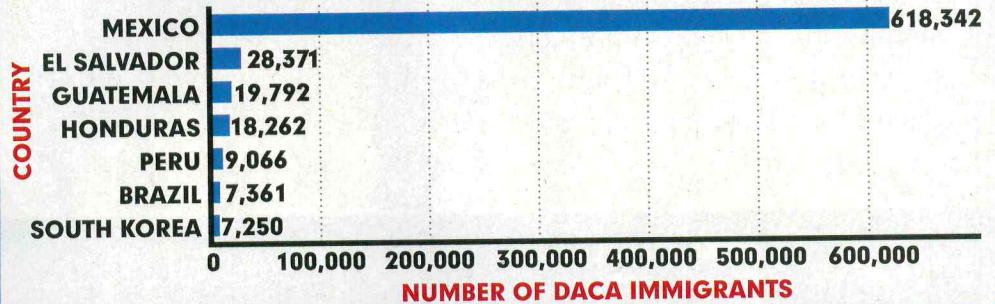


## Where Are DACA Immigrants From?



SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

But what about people like Fernanda? She didn't decide to come here on her own. She and many others were brought here as children by their undocumented parents. Should they be forced to leave too?



**PAUSE AND THINK:** What can't undocumented immigrants do?

## A New Dream

In 2012, President Barack Obama came up with an answer. He signed an order called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The new rule covered people who had been brought to the country illegally as kids. The rule allowed them to stay in the U.S. for at least two years. And it gave them permits to work here.

Over the next five years, 800,000 immigrants were protected by DACA. Fernanda was one of them. When the program started, she was too young to apply. But her brother and sister applied. DACA opened up opportunities for them. Her brother became a manager at a factory. Her sister got a job at a bank.

When Fernanda turned 15, she applied for DACA too. "It gave me hope," she says. "I felt like my dream of going to college could happen."



**PAUSE AND THINK:** What does DACA let young immigrants do?

## An Uncertain Future

Fernanda's excitement didn't last long. In the summer of 2016, immigration became a big issue in the presidential campaign. Donald Trump promised to get tough on undocumented immigrants. Many Americans supported him.

As president, Trump has expressed sympathy for immigrants protected by DACA. But late last summer he canceled the program. He announced that it would end on March 5, 2018. Congress can still decide to keep DACA—or replace it with a new rule to help these young immigrants. But as of mid-November, it was unclear what Congress would do.



**PAUSE AND THINK:** What happened to DACA last summer?

