Immigration Policies and Children: What’s at Stake?

- Children of immigrants now comprise one quarter of all children in the U.S. and represent the fastest growing segment of child population.
- 5.5 million children, 4.5 million of whom are U.S. citizens, have at least one undocumented parent.
- DHS data reveals that 72,410 parents of U.S. citizen children were deported in 2013.
- A 2013 report by Human Impact Partners estimates that over 150,000 U.S. citizen children were affected by a parent’s deportation in 2012.
- A 2011 report by the Applied Research Center (ARC) estimates that 5,100 children reside in the child welfare system with a detained or deported parent.
- 1 million undocumented children living in the U.S. with limited access to benefits and higher education.
- Over 60,000 unaccompanied children have entered the U.S. since October 2013, compared to previous annual totals between 6-8,000.
Rising Influence of Immigrant Youth and Children in Immigration Debate

• First Development, Relief and Education for Minors (DREAM) Act introduced in 2001 by Senators Dick Durbin and Orrin Hatch

• Texas first state legislature to pass in-state tuition bill in 2001 (17 states)

• Undocumented youth begin to mobilize, leading up to 2010 DREAM vote

• In June 2012, Obama Administration announced Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program

• Senate passes bipartisan immigration reform bill (S. 744) with strongest DREAM Act to date in 2013

• U.S. born citizen children of immigrants expected to cast 11 million votes by 2032
Challenges in meeting the needs of unaccompanied children

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Map B5

Share of K-12 Students with Unauthorized Immigrant Parent(s), by State, 2012

Note: Percentages calculated from unrounded numbers.

Source: Pew Research Center estimates for 2012 based on augmented American Community Survey data from Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER
Increase in Unaccompanied Minor Children

Unaccompanied Child Migrants Crossing Southwest Border

Source: U.S. Customs and Border Patrol
Thank You

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