

# POLICY MATTERS

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**Update on Discharge Petition Filed in the House to Force DACA Vote.** The [discharge petition](#) making its way through the House has caused a [divide among Republicans](#). The discharge petition aims to save the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by forcing a vote on [H. Res. 774](#), which would then lead to the consideration of four different DACA related proposals. In order for the discharge petition to be executed, it must be signed by a majority of House members—at least 218 members, to be exact. If the entire House Democratic caucus were to sign onto the petition, it would take an additional 25 Republicans to reach that threshold. As of today, the petition has 29 signatures, 20 of which are Republicans.

As discussed previously in *Policy Matters*, the [Queen of the Hill](#) rule would allow for these four measures to be voted on in sequence, with the measure receiving the most votes being adopted. Speaker Ryan has [come out strongly against](#) the move to force an immigration vote and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-CA) warned that voting on DACA this way [could cost the Republican party their majority](#) in the House.

**Senate Acts on Record Number of Judicial Nominees.** One reason the Department of Labor is still waiting for Senate confirmation of its Assistant Secretary of OSHA nominee (Scott Mugno) and Wage & Hour Administrator nominee (Cheryl Stanton) is the huge number of judicial nominees that they have already considered in President Trump's 16 months in office. On Tuesday, the [Senate confirmed two more circuit judges](#), bringing the total to twenty-one for this administration. In comparison, President Obama only had nine circuit court judges approved by this point in his presidency.

**15,000 Additional H-2B Visas to be Made Available this Summer.** The Trump administration is expected to make [15,000 additional H-2B visas available](#) for lesser-skilled foreign workers this summer. The number of visas available each year is capped by statute at 66,000, but a range of businesses—including fisheries, landscapers and those in summer tourist spots—have been waiting to see if Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen will exercise her authority to grant additional visas. If Secretary Nielsen were to authorize additional increases in H-2B visas, she would have to first confirm worker shortages with the Department of Labor.

**Apprenticeship Task Force Releases Final Report.** Late last week, President Trump's Task Force on Apprenticeship Expansion wrapped up with the release of its [final recommendations report](#). Nearly a year after President Trump signed the [Expanding Apprenticeships in America Executive Order](#), the task force addressed several hurdles facing industry-led apprenticeship programs and offered 26 recommendations as to how to best proceed. The report was the result of five separate meetings over the past year with stakeholders from a wide range of business and trade groups.

**Next Week: House Education and the Workforce Subcommittee Hearing on Regulatory Reform.** On Wednesday, May 23, the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections of the House Education and the Workforce Committee will hold a hearing entitled "[Regulatory Reform: Unleashing Economic Opportunity for Workers and Employers](#)." The hearing is expected to touch on a range of issues regarding deregulatory actions that can be taken to spur business and wage growth. A witness list has not been announced yet.

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