

Public Backs Granting Legal Status to Immigrants Brought to U.S. Illegally When they were Children, Oppose Expanding the Border Wall

By [Alec Tyson](#)

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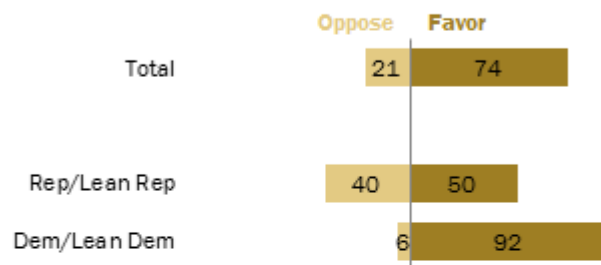
*The American public has clear-cut opinions on both issues at the center of the current debate on immigration policy. A large majority (74%) favors granting permanent legal status to immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally when they were children, but 60% oppose a proposal to “substantially expand the wall along the U.S. border with Mexico” – a longtime goal of **President Donald Trump**.*

When the two policies are taken together, 54% of Americans both *favor* granting permanent legal status to immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally as children and *oppose* greatly expanding the wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, according to a new Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 10-15.

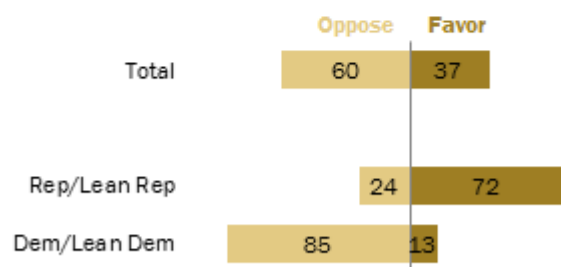
There are substantial partisan differences in opinions about both policies: About nine-in-ten (92%) Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say immigrants brought to the U.S. illegally as children should be granted permanent legal status. Republicans and Republican leaners favor this approach as well, though by a much more modest margin: 50% support this, while 40% are opposed.

Support for legal status for immigrants brought to U.S. illegally as children; opposition to expanded border wall

% who ___ granting permanent legal status to immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally when they were children



% who ___ substantially expanding the wall along the U.S. border with Mexico



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Note: Full [topline results](#) and [methodology](#) can be found here.

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