**KBIA AUDIO POSTCARD:**

By: Claudia Rivera Cotto

**Intro:** From the KBIA Newsroom, I’m Kassidy Arena. Supporters of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals(DACA) gathered at the Columbia Stands with Dreamers event last Saturday to urge Congress to act on legislation that would allow its recipients, known as “Dreamers,” a path to citizenship.

“Dreamers” is in reference to the DREAM Act that was introduced in 2001. This bill never became law. But since then, there have been several versions introduced, including two that are currently in Congress.

The two bills would provide DACA recipients, who came to the US before the age of 16, and other eligible immigrants the opportunity to apply for permanent legal status and eventually become eligible for U.S. citizenship. KBIA’s Claudia Rivera talked to attendees at the event.

Postcard:

**Zayra Saavedra:** “Hola me llamo Zayra. My name is Zayra. And tengo 22 años. I am 22 years old. Nací en México, I was born in Mexico. I immigrated here… well, my parents brought me here, I think I was 1 at least that’s what they told me. I’m not very sure, I don’t really have memory…”

**Claudia Rivera Cotto:** It was below 50 degrees and the wind was blowing, but supporters stood outside the Boone County Courthouse. Immigrants, politicians, faith leaders and advocates voiced their concerns and celebrated Dreamers in the event that included food and live music.

MUSIC from local band called Aventura Distinta

**Juan Carlos Morales:** “My name is Juan Carlos Morales. I attend the church C2 church and I am a business owner, I have a restaurant and I am here to support the Dreamers, my lady is a Dreamer. I came to support and help with the food.”

**Jason Lief:** “My name is Jason Lief I work for the National Immigration Forum and it’s an organization that works for inmigration reform and really focusing on bipartisan inmigration reform…I think it is important to recognize that this is a bipartisan issue that Republicans and Democrats both agree that we want this group of people in our country, in our communities.”

**Fernando Jimenez:** “My name is Fernando Jimenez and I was born in Mexico, but raised here in Colombia. And I grew up in the public schools here in CPS, and I'm working as a teacher here for CPS. Being DACA myself it is such a huge opportunity to be raised here in my community and then stay in my community to be an educator for these kids.”

**Ivonne Ramirez**: “Hi everyone my name is Ivonne Ramirez and I belong to the immigration task force for the archdiocese of St. Louis … No matter who is in office, they work for us and we need to go out there and ask them to vote for a pathway to citizenship.

**Juan Carlos Morales:** “It was very good what President Obama did with that of DACA because it did opened doors for people that are undocumented, they can go to school and can work legally and can be legally in the country. It feels like a freedom, it feels a relief but yes we would like to see a pathway to something permanent.”

**Ivonne Ramirez**:“Right now there is a bill on Capitol Hill that could allow us to have a pathway to citizenship and that is through going and saying to Congress to act on it now.”

**Fernando Jimenez: “**I like to say and tell people that I am DACA because I feel when people hear DACA or they need citizenship they make the connection to, you know, illegal immigrants there just so stigmatized. And we’re part of the community. We can be educators, nurses, we can work in government, we can do other things like that and we’re basically an unknown backbone to this country.”

**Outro:**

That was Zayra Saavedra, Juan Carlos Morales, Ivonne Ramirez, Jason Lief and Fernando Jimenez.

My name is Claudia Rivera, KBIA News