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**RUTGERS-EAGLETON POLL: MOST NEW JERSEYANS SUPPORT DREAM ACT**

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J – As President Barack Obama moves to implement parts of the DREAM Act by executive order, bypassing the need for congressional approval, a new Rutgers-Eagleton Poll finds that 80 percent of New Jerseyans support the provisions of the proposed law. The DREAM Act would prevent young undocumented immigrants from being deported if they met certain requirements regarding age, criminal background and education or military service.

Last week, the president called his executive order, “the right thing to do for the American people.” While the poll was taken two weeks before Obama’s announcement, the findings suggest that his decision is likely to be popular in New Jersey.

“Though the president’s order does not grant permanent citizenship as the DREAM Act would, the new poll results suggest strong support for his action,” said Poll Director David Redlawsk, a professor of political science at Rutgers. “While some may suggest Obama didn’t go far enough, he is not likely to face significant voter backlash here. However, some of the more lukewarm supporters in our poll might be concerned about Obama taking unilateral action.”

After hearing the specifics of the DREAM Act, Garden Staters are evenly split at about 40 percent each between whether they “strongly” or “somewhat” support it, while 10 percent somewhat oppose the act, and 8 percent strongly oppose it.

Results are from a statewide poll of 1,191 adults using both landlines and cell phones from May 31-June 4. The sample has a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points.

**Majority support cuts across demographic lines**

Reflecting recent national and state polls, which find majority support for the DREAM Act, support in New Jersey cuts across typical demographic divides. While nearly 90 percent of New Jersey’s immigrants support the proposed legislation, even typical opponents of immigration show some support.

“Prior to Obama’s decision, key tenets of the program were supported by Democrats and Republicans, even though the bill did not get past Congress,” said Redlawsk. “Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio, for example, recently offered a similar plan that did not go quite as far as the original DREAM Act. So it is not surprising to see support from both sides of the aisle in New Jersey.”

While 87 percent of Democrats support the DREAM Act provisions, so do 77 percent of independents and even 70 percent of Republicans. Support also extends to a majority of each age cohort; 86 percent the youngest New Jerseyans, 82 percent of 30 to 49 year-olds and 74 percent 50 and older support the proposed law.

Hispanics and African-Americans are more likely to strongly support the DREAM Act than whites, but a large majority of each group supports the proposal: 85 percent of Hispanics express support followed by 82 percent of African-Americans, and 77 percent of white New Jerseyans.

Even those who are more unfavorable to the presence and impact of immigrants in New Jersey favor the DREAM Act’s provisions, with 70 percent at least somewhat supportive of the proposal. And among those who think immigrants hurt the state’s economy, two-thirds still express some support.

“One key point is that the DREAM Act is about those who are brought to the U.S. illegally as children, not through any choice of their own,” noted Redlawsk. “These young people are apparently looked upon much more sympathetically than those who have made their own choice to come.”

### **Intensity of support varies**

Clear majorities of every major demographic group express at least some support for the DREAM Act, but levels of support vary. While 51 percent of Democrats offer strong support, only 34 percent of independents and 30 percent of Republicans do the same. But an additional 40 percent or more of the latter groups “somewhat” support the act.

Majorities of African-Americans and Hispanics strongly support the proposal, compared to 35 percent of whites, although another 42 percent are somewhat supportive. Fifty-nine percent of immigrants strongly support the act, 22 percent higher than U.S.-born Garden Staters.

“This differing intensity suggests that with the president making an end-run around Congress, there is room for those who oppose Obama anyway to shift their position and come out opposed,” said Redlawsk. “So while we show strong support for the DREAM act’s

provisions, we cannot be sure that this translates completely into support for Obama’s move. Most likely it does among those already strongly support the law, while creating conflict about the issue for others.”

Among New Jerseyans who say there are too many immigrants in the state, 31 percent still strongly support the DREAM Act while another 39 percent somewhat support it. Meanwhile 47 percent of those who think immigration levels are “just right” give strong support and another 40 percent are somewhat supportive.

**Support from those who know, don’t know immigrants**

Eighty-six percent of respondents born outside the U.S. support the DREAM Act, with 59 showing strong support. Likewise, 83 percent of those with at least one immigrant parent support the proposal.

New Jerseyans’ amount of contact with immigrants only slightly affects support for the act. Seventy-three percent who interact with immigrants less than once a month show at least some support for the act; 80 percent of respondents with daily contact show support.

Support also does not depend on the personal importance Garden Staters assign to the issue of immigration. The small number (about 6 percent) who say immigration is their most important issue are more likely to strongly support the DREAM Act than the 20 percent of respondents who say immigration is not an important issue at all. Even so large majorities show at least some support across all levels of issue importance.

Those who consider immigration their most important issue are also the only group showing more than 25 percent strong opposition to the DREAM Act, suggesting the issue is very important both to those in support of and opposed to immigration. Conservative New Jerseyans, who make up about one-fifth of the sample, are the only other group coming close to a large number strongly opposed to the proposed law, at 19 percent.

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**QUESTIONS AND TABLES BEGIN ON THE NEXT PAGE**

**Questions and Tables**

The questions covered in the release of June 18, 2012 are listed below. Column percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding. Respondents are New Jersey Adults unless otherwise noted.

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**NOTE: The DREAM ACT question was preceded by a series of questions on immigration attitudes not being reported on in detail here. These were:**

- Q. First, in general, do you think the current number of immigrants in New Jersey is too high, too low, or just right?
  
- Q. How important is the issue of immigration to you personally?
  
- Q. For each of the following places, please tell me whether people born outside the U.S. have made the overall quality of life better, worse, or have not had much of an effect. [Rotate: Your neighborhood, your schools, your place of work, State of New Jersey]
  
- Q. Do you think that people who came to New Jersey from other countries help New Jersey's economy, hurt it, or do not have much effect on the economy?
  
- Q. How often would you say you interact with someone from another country? Is it every day, a few times a week, a few times a month, once a month, or less than once a month?
  
- Q. Which comes closest to your view about undocumented immigrants who are currently working in New Jersey and nationwide? They should be allowed to stay in their jobs and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship; they should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as temporary guest workers but not apply for U.S. citizenship; or they should be required to leave the United States?
  
- Q. Congress has been considering the DREAM Act, which would allow undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as minors and grew up mostly in this country to become eligible for citizenship. They would have to show good moral character and either enlist in the military or obtain a college degree. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this legislation?**

Strongly support	40%
Somewhat support	40%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	8%
DK (vol)	3%
Unwght N=	1,186

**Adults**

	Party ID			Ideology			Education			
	Dem	Ind	Rep	Lib	Mod	Cons	HS or less	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad Work
Strongly support	51%	34%	30%	47%	41%	27%	37%	44%	37%	42%
Somewhat support	36%	43%	40%	43%	40%	38%	37%	37%	46%	36%
Somewhat oppose	6%	10%	15%	5%	10%	12%	10%	9%	9%	11%
Strongly oppose	5%	10%	12%	2%	7%	19%	12%	8%	7%	7%
DK (vol)	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	4%	4%	2%	1%	3%
Unwght N=	432	508	235	256	653	254	299	308	335	239

*Immigration – DREAM Act, June 2012  
Rutgers-Eagleton Poll*

	Employment				Age			
	FT	PT	Retired	Not Empl	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+
Strongly support	41%	34%	38%	43%	45%	41%	35%	38%
Somewhat support	39%	48%	37%	40%	41%	41%	39%	36%
Somewhat oppose	10%	7%	11%	8%	7%	8%	12%	11%
Strongly oppose	9%	9%	11%	5%	5%	7%	11%	11%
DK (vol)	2%	2%	4%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Unwght N=	619	126	214	172	218	465	307	194

	Income				Gender		Race			
	< 50K	50K- <100K	100K- <150K	150K+	Male	Female	White	Black	Hisp	Other
Strongly support	44%	38%	38%	48%	38%	41%	35%	53%	54%	33%
Somewhat support	37%	42%	43%	34%	39%	41%	42%	29%	31%	50%
Somewhat oppose	9%	9%	8%	13%	10%	9%	10%	10%	5%	8%
Strongly oppose	7%	9%	10%	4%	10%	7%	10%	7%	6%	5%
DK (vol)	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Unwght N=	283	327	238	164	565	621	783	149	152	97

	Religion				Region					
	Cath	Prot	Jewish	Other	Born Again	Urban	Suburb	Exurb	Phil/ South	Shore
Strongly support	37%	41%	39%	43%	43%	46%	43%	38%	30%	36%
Somewhat support	43%	36%	42%	38%	37%	37%	39%	43%	41%	43%
Somewhat oppose	10%	10%	7%	9%	10%	8%	7%	6%	16%	12%
Strongly oppose	8%	11%	8%	5%	7%	7%	8%	10%	11%	6%
DK (vol)	2%	2%	4%	4%	2%	2%	2%	4%	3%	2%
Unwght N=	500	369	76	195	214	241	421	127	203	194

	Respondent Born in U.S.		Parents Born Outside U.S.		The Number of Immigrants in NJ is:			How importance is the issue of Immigration?			
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Too high	Just right	DK	Most Imp	One of few	Some- what	Not at all
Strongly support	37%	59%	47%	36%	31%	47%	32%	49%	42%	39%	36%
Somewhat support	42%	27%	36%	42%	39%	40%	42%	18%	34%	45%	44%
Somewhat oppose	10%	6%	8%	10%	11%	8%	11%	6%	10%	9%	11%
Strongly oppose	9%	6%	7%	9%	16%	3%	8%	26%	12%	6%	5%
DK (vol)	3%	3%	2%	3%	2%	2%	7%	2%	3%	1%	4%
Unwght N=	1017	168	396	781	427	581	148	64	344	539	230

	Immigrants' Effect on NJ Economy				Frequency of Interaction with Immigrants				
	Help	Hurt	Little effect	DK	Every day	Few times /wk	Few times /mo	Less than Once/ mo	
Strongly support	49%	30%	36%	35%	43%	38%	36%	29%	
Somewhat support	40%	37%	42%	44%	37%	46%	40%	44%	
Somewhat oppose	6%	13%	12%	7%	9%	8%	15%	13%	
Strongly oppose	2%	18%	9%	5%	9%	7%	7%	11%	
DK (vol)	2%	2%	2%	9%	2%	1%	2%	2%	
Unwght N=	502	336	272	70	649	258	122	88	

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**Rutgers-Eagleton Poll May 31 – June 4, 2012**

The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was conducted by telephone from May 31 – June 4, 2012 with a scientifically selected random sample of 1191 New Jersey adults. Data are weighted to represent known parameters in the New Jersey population, using gender, age, race, and Hispanic ethnicity matching to 2010 US Census Bureau data. All results are reported with these weighted data. This telephone poll included 1040 landline respondents and 151 cell phone respondents, all acquired through random digit dialing.

All surveys are subject to sampling error, which is the expected probable difference between interviewing everyone in a population versus a scientific sampling drawn from that population. The sampling error for 1191 adults is +/-2.8 percentage points, at a 95 percent confidence interval. Thus if 50 percent of New Jersey voters favored a particular position, one would be 95 percent sure that the true figure would be between 47.2 and 52.8 percent (50 +/-2.8) had all New Jersey registered voters been interviewed, rather than just a sample. Sampling error increases as the sample size decreases, so statements based on various population subgroups are subject to more error than are statements based on the total sample. Sampling error does not take into account other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, question wording or context effects.

This Rutgers-Eagleton Poll was fielded by Braun Research Incorporated. The questionnaire was developed and all data analyses were completed in house. The Rutgers-Eagleton Poll is paid for and sponsored by the Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, a non-partisan academic center focused on the study and teaching of politics and the political process.

<b>Weighted Sample Characteristics 1,191 New Jersey Adults</b>			
37% Democrat	48% Male	18% 18-29	66% White
43% Independent	52% Female	39% 30-49	13% Black
20% Republican		26% 50-64	13% Hispanic
		16% 65+	8% Asian/Other/Multi