

EVAN DACOSTA:

All right, so we're sitting here with Gargi Prohit, who is a DACA student and in charge of the SCIA group here at Notre Dame. So do you want just get started and tell us a little bit about your story?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Sure. Hello, everyone. Thank you all so much for coming. I know this is a difficult time for all of us with midterms and Thanksgiving break coming up.

So to give a little bit about my background, I was born in Junagadh, India, in the State of Gujarat in 1997. And in 2005 my father passed away from cancer, so my mother decided to make the decision to move to New York City in 2005. So for the first couple of months I stayed with my aunt in New Jersey and then me and my mom settled in to New York City where she got a job. And I enrolled in third grade and I've been living there ever since.

So for the first – up until my junior year of college I always knew that I never could discuss my status because my mom never explicitly told me that I was undocumented. She told me that, you know, I didn't have papers, but the word undocumented is not really common in my household, at least. So I was always told to, you know, not dwell too much upon that topic because she was really scared for my safety.

And I didn't really know what it meant to be undocumented until my senior year of college. So after junior year ended and in the summer my college-bound guidance counselor brought my mom in along with my drama and my English teacher and then she explained to my mom like, you know, she has DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, but she will not be able to use that to apply for federal aid. And my mom started crying because she thought I didn't really have a future. She thought I wouldn't be able to get into any college because even if I did get accepted, I wouldn't be able to afford it.

Thankfully that didn't happen and later on in my senior year I was a QuestBridge finalist and I got accepted here with a full free ride. And I've been here sharing my story ever since. I was really worried about sharing my story freshman year, but after Trump got elected I felt the need to speak out more on this issue because I saw that there were a lot of misconceptions and myths around this issue, but I also didn't see many Asian undocumented stories out in the media.

And I think people unconsciously have the stereotype that undocumented immigrants, this is solely a Hispanic/Latino issues, especially after this election. And I really became passionate about sharing my story to really break that unconscious bias that people may or may not realize that they have.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Awesome. Thank you for sharing with us. So you are a DACA recipient. So do you want to kind of just give us the background of DACA and how the whole program was set up and the context around it?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so DACA is a federal – so DACA is not a law. It was an executive order that was signed in by Obama. So in 2012, after many undocumented activists pushed Obama to really push for some immigration reform, he finally signed in DACA, which stands for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.

So with DACA you essentially get an employment authorization card, which you have to renew every two years. So I have DACA, which means that I get to work on this campus and every two years I have to file a \$495 fee and then give my biometrics as in like skin, my fingerprints, so that I can work.

With DACA you're also protected – supposed to be protected from deportation because you're under protection for it. And in September 5<sup>th</sup> this year, President Trump signed the order to rescind DACA.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So DACA was a program put in place by the Obama administration.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yes.

EVAN DACOSTA:

But you've said before that Obama was not exactly as pro-immigrant as a lot of people think. So do you just want to talk a little bit about that and how that's kind of a common misconception?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah. I think the misconception here is that many allies of this issue don't really realize the harm that many Democrats have caused to this issue. Obama didn't solely create DACA out of like the goodness of his heart. There was a lot of activism work done by undocumented immigrants who themselves didn't qualify for DACA. And what a lot of people don't know is that Obama deported, I believe, around 3 million people, which is the most of any president in the past, Republican and Democrat.

And in 2010, I believe, there was – the DREAM Act passed. And the DREAM Act is essentially a pathway for citizenship for many DACA recipients, plus those who did not qualify for DACA. And in 2010 it – with majority of Democrats it did not pass by five votes. That came from the Democratic Party.

So there's – my criticism is that plenty of people see this as Republicans are bad, they're against undocumented immigrations, versus Democrats are good because they're Democrats.

So they're obviously for it, when in reality it's not that black and white. There are a lot of gray areas.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So it's really not an issue that's a clear-cut party line issue. It really kind of goes across the whole political spectrum. So DACA is certainly something that a lot of politicians kind of like to put into their platform when they're running for campaigns and running for reelection and all that kind of thing. So do you think that it's – a lot of politicians just use it for political benefit and they just – they support DACA just for political expediency, or do you think that it's something that politicians really have a skin in the game about? Do you think they really – something that they're passionate about or is it something that –

I know you mentioned Luis Gutierrez used to really not be very pro-DACA and then he kind of changed his stance on that. So do you want to just talk about that a little bit?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so after Trump rescinded DACA on September 5<sup>th</sup> there were a lot of politicians, including Democrats, who would often rally in support of this issue. However, I have known from plenty of my friends who are undocumented activists and who've been doing this work a lot longer than I have, who said that these same supposed Democratic allies were the same ones that were criticizing these undocumented activists for the same actions that they're now doing again in 2010 and 2011, 2012.

So it's kind of like a lot of them are jumping on the bandwagon. And I believe that's because they want to seem more sympathetic to this issue, when in reality that's not what they were like many years ago.

EVAN DACOSTA:

And do you think there are any elected officials that are really supportive of this issue? Like is there anyone that's generally in support of dreamers in the DACA program?

GARGI PUROHIT:

You know I haven't come across one because I really thought Luis Gutierrez, he's a representative from Illinois. I believe he's the representative of the sixth district. I really thought he was in support of it, but I was going down my timeline and one of my undocumented activist friends in New York City, she was talking about how he criticized many undocumented activists in 2010 for the way they protested.

And so I haven't come across one who I haven't found to be problematic. Just when I think there's one, I listen to some of my friends and then hear what they have to say. And I was like, oh, well, that's another person crossed off the list.

She had this really funny quote online that said that we have long memories, but even longer receipts.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So the temporary protection status program is another thing I wanted to bring up.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Is that a part of DACA or is that a separate program? I'm not entirely familiar with the details of that, if you wanted to – I'm sure you know about this than I do, so if you'd like to discuss that? Because I know it's an issue that's – I'm from Massachusetts and in Massachusetts there has been protests going on outside the state house for the past week or so in support of TPS. So it's definitely a relevant issue now. So do you want to just discuss TPS a little bit?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so TPS stands for Temporary Protection Status. And it's not – it's a very separate thing from DACA. So I'm reading this off USCIS's website and it's basically – TPS, this protection status, is given to people from specific countries like El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen. It's given to people from this country because either there's a Civil War going on or there was a natural disaster, which means that they are not able to return to their country.

And it's essentially they're not – these TPS protection individuals or beneficiaries, they're not removable from the United States, they can get employment authorization document, so like DACA recipient, such as myself. And they may be granted travel authorization. So this is a separate issue from DACA, however, I'm really – I really wanted to discuss this because this is not discussed in the news, as DACA is. Plenty of people have heard the acronym of DACA. They may not know what it is, but they've heard of it. But not many – enough people know about temporary protection status. And that's a problem because that's also under attack via President Trump.

I believe he ended the temporary protection status for many Nicaraguans and he might end it soon for Honduras. So this is something where if he takes that away as well then some of these people, they would not be able to go back to their home countries either, like I said, because there's a Civil War going on.

For example, in Honduras, one of the cities there, San Pedro Paul-something, something like that. It's one of the most dangerous cities in the entire world. So you know taking away temporary protection status from people who are like there. You're asking them to go there to, I believe, what is the most – third dangerous city in the world.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So they're effectively just putting civilians back into a warzone, really?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Either they're putting civilians back into a very dangerous country or they're putting civilians back to countries where they've been hit by natural disasters, where it's not able to like take back these citizens.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm. So the Trump administration is really, as we all know, has not really been very immigration friendly. So last year when Trump was elected there was a huge student protest, there was a huge walkout, there was a protest outside of DeBartolo Hall. And then when Jeff Sessions made the announcement that they were gonna end DACA, there really wasn't very much going on. There was a smaller protest outside Main Building, but it was not the same level of passion, really, about the issue.

Do you think that's just people are apathetic now or do you think it's just another day in the Trump administration or why do you think there's that disparity?

GARGI PUROHIT:

I think when first – when Trump first got elected there was a lot of emotions and I think all of us were very worried and anxious because we didn't know what was gonna happen. And many people just felt like they needed to do something. And now that it's been a year, I think it's really sad, but we've been desensitized because so much has happened in this past year. And I honestly think that Trump is ruining so many things, not just in immigration form, but he's ruining things in like the environmental aspect of it, that it's also really hard to keep up with even the news of DACA itself. So I think people are also just really tired and may also feel like they can't keep up with everything else that's going on.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm. So there were students that were protesting, but it wasn't a very large thing. So you're in charge for SCIA, the Student Coalition for Immigration Advocacy; is that correct?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Mm-hmm, yeah.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So do you want to talk a little bit about what SCIA does and your role on campus?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so, as Evan said, SCIA, Student Coalition of Immigration Advocacy, our main goal is to educate primarily the Notre Dame student body about issues like DACA, like the DREAM Act, like TPS, but it's also to help push for action.

So on September 6<sup>th</sup>, the day after DACA got rescinded, we actually held a call-in session right – the floor right above us in the café, where we had people in, where we had – we gave them a sample script and they looked up their local representatives and senators and then they called to say, I'm a constituent, I'm a student at Notre Dame, you know I'm calling to let them know that I want this elected official to support – defend DACA and to support the DREAM Act.

So those are kind of some of the – one of our main events that's gotten a lot of traction. Those are kind of the events that we do. We try to educate you all, but also we try to give you all some tangible action so that if you really feel moved for it, there's something you can do to actually help make a difference.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm. So speaking of what we can do to make a difference, I know that there's a lot of talk around campus now about the new ICE detention facility that's just opened up in Elkhart, was it? Mishawaka, I believe?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yes, I'm – it's not in Mishawaka.

EVAN DACOSTA:

I believe it was Elkhart.

GARGI PUROHIT:

It's – yes, Elkhart, yeah.

EVAN DACOSTA:

So there was – did you say there was a protest there, yesterday, going on?

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so I really want more Notre Dame students to understand that this issue of undocumented immigrants, it really is a lot closer than they think. So if you haven't heard, there is a proposed detention center being opened up in Elkhart. So yesterday I went to a protest in Goshen County and I saw where they were planning on building the detention center. And it's right between this huge jailhouse and then also between like a Farmer's Market. And then they're planning on building an ICE detention center there.

And what I really want Notre Dame students to understand is that if they're so in support of this issue of undocumented immigrations, I really think they should also do research on what's going on in Indiana as well because this is the type of real action and harm that's coming to our communities. And we all need to band together, especially with the residents of Indiana, to show our support, to really put our money where our mouth is and show that we are not only in support of people like me, Notre Dame undocumented students, but those in the Indiana area as well.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Right. So another thing students need to do is calling representatives. You've talked about the importance of that, especially with Democrats, because everyone calls – everyone just generally assumes that Democrats are gonna vote in favor of pro-immigration policies. So people, when they call in, they tend to call the Republican congressman or congresswoman because they think that they're the ones that need the most convincing. So how important really is it to just flood your elected officials with messages? Because they are working for their constituents, so how important is it to really just make sure that you're getting the word out there?

GARGI PUROHIT:

So I'm gonna read this quote from a political article that was made in 2010. And it's literally titled "DREAM Act Dies in Senate." So it says:

The DREAM Act would have passed if Democrats had shown unity on the measure.

But five Democrats voted against the legislation: Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Ben Nelson of Nebraska, and both Montana Democrats, Jon Tester and Max Baucus. West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin announced his opposition to the DREAM Act in a statement Saturday but missed the vote.

So that happened in 2010 where five Democrats were against it, but also three Republicans crossed the party line to actually vote for the bill. So Indiana Senator Richard Lugar, Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, and Utah Senator Bob Bennett.

So the reason why I'm bringing this up is that people always ask me this question, like should I still call my representative and senators if they're Democrats? And yes, you should because, like I said, don't just make the assumption that just because they're a Democrat they would be in support of this issue. If they would be in support of this issue, then I wouldn't be here right now trying to get all of you to call your representatives or senators because it obviously would have been passed when there was a majority Democrat in the House of Representatives and Senate.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm. So earlier we spoke about how a lot of politicians are using this as an issue just for political gain. So how do you balance supporting a politician who is supporting DACA now versus recognizing that they may not really be that passionate about the subject? So

how would you say – how would you balance, basically, political expediency versus supporting – because they are, in the moment now, they are supporting it. So how do you reconcile the two?

GARGI PUROHIT:

I think it's about knowing your history of the representatives, keeping it in the back of the mind. Like, yeah, they may be so in support of this movement right now, but were they really in support of it back when it wasn't really well-known?

And honestly even if your morals, like you don't – your morals don't line up with what the representative or senator really thinks about this issue, they're working for you. Like they are public servants, so you are essentially their boss. So you know what, they should vote however their constituents want them to vote, which is, again, why it's so important that you all tell them.

That's the first line of like a sample script. Hi, my name is this and I am your constituent, because you're letting them know that I am your boss. So if you want to get reelected again, you're gonna vote this certain way because I want to support this issue, I want to support this 11 million group of people in this country.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. And I know when we spoke earlier you mentioned that even here at Notre Dame there are students who kind of used this issue for their own gain. So how exactly would you say – what are the requirements, really, to be a good ally in this whole issue?

GARGI PUROHIT:

So the event that he's referring to is the movement that happened last year around this time. So it was the Sanctuary Campus Movement. And for those who don't know, the Sanctuary Campus Movement was a national – nationwide movement calling for college campuses to be essentially sanctuaries for their undocumented students. So what happened last year was that there was this peaceful sit-in in front of the main building and then me and a couple of other people went up on the main steps and we read the petition calling Jenkins to make this a sanctuary campus.

And that was essentially, in my opinion, in my personal opinion, a very failed movement because plenty of the people who were up there were not necessarily good allies of this movement. For example, one of the students who graduated who is now working for Teach for America, a lot of people actually put her as the face of undocumented immigrations because they thought she was undocumented herself, when in reality that wasn't the case whatsoever.

And I think a lot of allies need to understand that if you're ever gonna be in support of an issue, you need to make sure you're following the leadership of those who are firsthand-ly

affected by it. So if you're gonna support an undocumented immigrant issue, listen to people – to listen to actual undocumented immigrants.

I think for a lot of people they just assume if someone who is speaking up so much about this topic, it's like, oh, well, this person, like what happened with sanctuary campus, is like, oh, this person just spoke a lot about this issue. I'm just – I'm assuming that they must be undocumented themselves, when in reality that's not always the case. So I really want allies to be very critical of who they get their information from and to really push back on these assumptions that you would normally make and what kind of information you're getting.

So to touch more upon the second part, and I already mentioned this before, whenever I go on a news media outlet I always see this statement by those who are supposed to be sympathetic to this issue making these like grand statements like undocumented immigrants have all cross the border wall or they speak about this as if in a way that all undocumented immigrants are Hispanic and Latino, primarily Mexicans, which is just not the case.

So even if you go on like, let's say, the New York Times right now, they had a video talking about this issue, but a lot of the people that they were chosen from it were also of Hispanic and Latino background. And it's just about understanding and being critical like, okay, not everyone – like that is not all 11 million people you know are coming from Central America or coming from South America or are coming from Latin America. That this issue, like everyone here that is undocumented, has such a diverse background and has such a unique and diverse story that you can't just put like a superlative on all of them and expect them to fill this one stereotype.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm. And I have some peer research statistics here and it is true that 79 percent of DACA recipients are from Mexico, but also the fifth country with the most DACA recipients is South Korea. So that's really something that kind of is overlooked.

And most of these DACA recipients live in really large metropolitan areas.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah.

EVAN DACOSTA:

New York, L.A., Dallas, Fort Worth, D.C.. So with sanctuary cities now and Trump's threat to cut federal grants basically to these cities, do you think these sanctuary cities are making a difference, do you think they're effective?

GARGI PUROHIT:

So I haven't been back in New York City for too long because most of the time I'm either here. But I think the way that they're most effective is because, like you said, there are a lot of undocumented immigrants in this big city, so it's kind of helpful to have all of these activists

in there calling for change. And they're also primarily liberal cities too, so I think the part of the city that's most effective is the community of undocumented immigrants and undocumented immigrant activists and allies that are calling for change, that are calling for their cities to actually hold up to their promise of being sanctuary cities.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Right. And that generally just means not cooperating with federal ICE authorities and that type of thing, right? That's –

GARGI PUROHIT:

Mm-hmm.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Okay. That's most of what we have for the discussion. We have some time to take questions, if you guys have any. So the floor is open, yeah.

AUDIENCE:

I was wondering if you could talk about how you made the decision to speak out about your DACA status and what are some reservations that other DACA recipients might have to (*inaudible* \* 0:24:36.4).

GARGI PUROHIT:

So I started to share it my freshman year. I wasn't really involved in SCIA my freshman year. I just started to share it in my classes, primarily the ones where we would talk about political issues, because I was very aware of – you know as a recipient myself, I was – like I would start to hear all of these misconceptions which I felt the need to say like, hey, that's not true, I'm a DACA recipient myself and I pay my taxes, so does my mom and she's not a DACA recipient.

But I think a lot of the reservations that many of us have is the safety not only for us, but you have to realize that when I'm sharing my status I'm essentially sharing my mom's status too. And the reason why I was really scared when Trump got elected is because when I tell like students here and expose it on Facebook, my worst fear is that something bad is gonna happen to my mom as a result of my activism.

And I think that's a reservation that plenty of us holds, like if we say something, like is some psycho out there gonna like track our family and hurt them or whatnot?

EVAN DACOSTA:

Hmm. Anyone else with?

AUDIENCE:

Cool. Thank you, first of all, for sharing your story. That was awesome and I really learned a lot info from that. I just wanted to ask, you know I think not a lot of us – or a lot of us might know someone who is for DACA but you know – or who is a DACA student, but we don't necessarily know what the practical implications are of what has happened recently. So I guess in light of DACA being pulled down, I guess, what is the reality that you're facing after graduation from here? And as a corollary to that, what can we do as students here to support DACA students on campus?

GARGI PUROHIT:

So I think the reality is that our – for those who weren't privileged enough to even have DACA, because there are around 10 million other people who never had DACA and some of those are on campus, my fear is that a US – like Homeland Security has my address in it because when you're applying for DACA you have to write down your home address too. So it's like they have the system on record. I essentially came out the shadow for this risky benefit hoping that it would pay off. So right now I'm really worried because if I won't be able to work on this campus, then how am I gonna even be able to afford my tickets, afford the fees for my books, and just random things that like you really wouldn't think of.

And my second biggest concern right now is that what's my career – what are my career opportunities after I graduate Notre Dame? There are very few scholarships that do allow undocumented immigrants to apply and a good majority of those are only available for DACA recipients. So at this point I don't know what my future past ND is because I don't know if law school – what are the policies going on in law schools or just any other graduate types of fields? Or if I don't want to go to law school, if I just want to go work straight away, how would that be possible?

Because I will graduate in May of 2019, that's when we graduate?

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm, yeah, yeah, yeah.

GARGI PUROHIT:

And my DACA expires in March, so after I graduate ND it's like, cool, thanks for hiring me, but there's also no legal way that you can pay me either. So it's – the fear is like will a company actually take a risk with me being essentially undocumented? And to be quite frank, I don't think most companies do because it's too much of a hassle. You know why would you want to essentially choose an undocumented immigrant with all of these issues going on when you can choose somebody that doesn't have to deal with this issue?

Which is why, again, it's so scary to come out with our status and the reservations with it. Because companies do a quick Google search, like they'll very easily find me and find like how outspoken I am about my status.

EVAN DACOSTA:

All right, we have another question over here.

AUDIENCE:

You spoke briefly about politicians that may not genuinely have a passion for or support DACA or the DREAM Act. So I guess my question is, at a time where the status of documented immigrants is in complete limbo, it (*inaudible* \* 0:29:32.0) nothing less than a crisis. What should be the approach of activists? Should there be more accommodation for more moderate Democrats who may just be using the issue because it is such a hot button issue right now or should we still kind of have a purity test in terms of whether or not Democrats actually have shown a record of support that can date back to times when it really wasn't in public favor even among Democrats?

GARGI PUROHIT:

At this point we need the DREAM Act to be passed because if the DREAM Act would be passed then there's a way for me to get citizenship, there's a way for me to continue working, and make sure I have opportunities after I graduate ND. So even if they don't have a pure record of it, again, just keep that in mind. But also, again, we need as many votes as we can to get this – to get a clean DREAM Act passed. A DREAM Act where, you know, we don't say, yeah, you can give protection or citizenship to like this group of students, but like for, let's say like our parents, like not so much for them. So make sure it's inclusive of the entire 11 million undocumented immigrants.

So I would just say call every single person, like whether they were in stance with it before, but they are now. Keep that in mind when they're making those speeches of how like I care so much about this issue. But again, hold them accountable. Like if they say they care about it, then you know what, let them know. Like, okay, now is your chance now to show how you really do care.

EVAN DACOSTA:

All right, well, if that's all the questions that we have –

AUDIENCE:

I've got one.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Oh, you've got one? Okay.

AUDIENCE:

I was wondering so there's – whenever discussion is in the media, especially, about DACA happen there's always kind of the first line of defense is, well, they didn't choose to come here. And I was wondering what you thought about that defense, if you think people should

use that? Maybe perhaps why that is brought up and then kind of – this is a lot of questions, sorry.

GARGI PUROHIT:

It's fine.

AUDIENCE:

But as a corollary to that, is that problematic when you've brought up the number of total people here who are undocumented, and that's out of 11 million, is that defense of, well, they didn't choose to come here problematic for the people who did? And then addressing policy that would help them.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah. So that's also some of the common phrases I've heard. It's like, you know, they didn't choose – and by they people are referring to DACA recipients, like kids who came here at a young age. They didn't choose to come here or children shouldn't be held accountable for their parents' mistake. And I think – I don't think anyone in this room is a parent, but you all do need to understand that our parents will do anything for us. Like they will – my mom, like they will just cross borders, they will cross the ocean if it means that it's a better life for us.

Like I'm gonna give you an example of my mom. And she never really had a life where she was independent herself because she grew up with like five older brothers and she went to college and then right – like straight after that she was married to my father and like she lived with my dad and his family. So she was never really independent and then now she has to come to America, where she has to leave her family behind, and just has to live with one other – the only other family member here, which is my dad's sister, who was horribly abusive towards me and my mom emotionally and physically. And she just has to leave everything behind and come to this new country hoping that there would be better opportunities for me.

So just to hear people say, I shouldn't be held accountable because my mother made a mistake, you know it's not a mistake. It was a conscious decision for her to come here. And this is what I mean by saying we're not really gonna throw any undocumented community – group of undocumented community beneath the bus, which includes our parents. Like I'm a dreamer, yeah, because that's like what the bill was called, but our parents were the original dreamers because it was their dream to bring us to this country in the hopes that we would have a better life. So you can't really support me without supporting my mom. I don't really allow for that.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Awesome. Well, if that's everything we have, I was hoping you could tell us about some future SCIA events, if you have anything coming up. I know you mentioned something in February that you guys are gonna do.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yeah, so one tangible way that all of you can really get involved is like our Facebook page, SCIA, Student Coalition of Immigration Advocacy. Hopefully we'll put it up on the Facebook page too.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Mm-hmm, yeah.

GARGI PUROHIT:

So that way you can sign up, know about our events, but also sign up for our LISTSERV. So what will be happening in February is that we'll be hosting the call-in, but we'll be doing it – the plan is that we'll be doing it for the entire month of February. So each week of February on specific days of February where like – I'm gonna give an example. Let's say Tuesday to Friday, every single week of February from, let's say, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. we'll reserve a room in LaFun (*phonetic* \* 0:35:17.1) where people can come in, we'll give them a sample script, and then they can call their local representatives and senators.

And you know the purpose of that is to keep pressuring our elected officials, like, hey, I know this isn't in the news media right now and it's not as popular as it was in September, but we haven't forgotten about this. We haven't forgotten about me, about my mom, and about this community, and like you're gonna do your part to make sure that they support it.

Because you really have to hassle your elected officials if you really want something to get done. So please like our Facebook page, come up get on our LISTSERV, because we're trying to also educate you not just what's going on in Notre Dame, but what's also going on in the Indiana area, like give you updates on the possibility of the detention center being in Elkhart, which could be very devastating to the undocumented immigrants outside of Notre Dame.

EVAN DACOSTA:

Awesome, Gargi. Well, thank you for sitting down with us.

GARGI PUROHIT:

Yes, no problem.

EVAN DACOSTA:

It was a great discussion. So yeah, that's it. Thanks you guys for coming.

(END)