

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2020

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

Following the Supreme Court's landmark decision rejecting your repeal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), we strongly urge you to change course and use your executive authority to protect, not deport, the young immigrants who are eligible for DACA.

Eight years ago, following bipartisan requests from Congress, President Obama used his legal authority to establish DACA. DACA provides temporary protection from deportation on an individualized basis to immigrants who arrived in the United States as children if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks. The young people who are eligible for DACA, known as Dreamers, are American in every way except for their immigration status. More than 800,000 Dreamers have come forward and received DACA. DACA has unleashed the full potential of Dreamers, who are contributing to our country as soldiers, nurses, teachers, and small business owners, and in many other ways.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 200,000 DACA recipients are working in occupational areas that your Administration's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) identifies as part of the "essential critical infrastructure workforce." This includes an estimated 41,700 DACA recipients working in the health care industry, including physicians and physicians in training, intensive care nurses, paramedics, respiratory therapists, nursing assistants, and health technicians. It makes no sense to continue your efforts to deport these essential workers to countries they barely remember even as our nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic.

When you announced your repeal of DACA, you called on Congress to "legalize DACA," but since then, you have rejected numerous bipartisan deals to protect Dreamers. For example, on January 11, 2018, in a meeting in the Oval Office, you profanely rejected a bipartisan immigration agreement that included protection for Dreamers and a large down payment on your beloved border wall. On February 15, 2018, the Senate considered a bipartisan amendment offered by Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Angus King (I-ME) which included a path to citizenship for Dreamers. A bipartisan majority supported the amendment, but it failed to reach the 60 votes needed to pass because your Administration issued a strident statement of opposition. On the same day, the Senate rejected your hardline immigration proposal by a bipartisan supermajority of 39-60.

On June 4, 2019, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, legislation that would give Dreamers a path to citizenship, on a strong bipartisan vote of 237-187. The American Dream and Promise Act has now been pending in the Senate for more than a year. Without your support, it is unlikely that Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell will schedule it for a vote.

Mr. President, it is not too late for you to do the right thing. Specifically, we call on you to immediately:

1. Publicly announce that you will not make another attempt to repeal DACA;
2. Comply with the Supreme Court’s decision by directing DHS to follow the June 15, 2012, memo issued by then-Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano called, *Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children*; and
3. Endorse the American Dream and Promise Act, which would pass the Senate on a strong bipartisan vote if you simply called on Leader McConnell to bring it to a vote.

As the Supreme Court has recognized, our nation can continue to protect Dreamers. By contrast, your Administration’s efforts to deport DACA recipients are needlessly cruel and would weaken our nation’s essential workforce. While only Congress can provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, it is up to you whether that process is done as smoothly and as harmlessly as possible so that these young immigrants who have benefitted from America in countless ways can also continue contributing to our nation.

It would be an American tragedy to deport DACA recipients who are saving lives in the midst of this pandemic. We must ensure these talented young immigrants are not forced to stop working when the need for their public service has never been greater. And we must give them the chance they deserve to become American citizens.

We, and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers, await your response.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Andy Kim Member of Congress	Ann Kirkpatrick Member of Congress	Anna G. Eshoo Member of Congress
Antonio Delgado Member of Congress	Ayanna Pressley Member of Congress	Barbara Lee Member of Congress
Ben Ray Luján Member of Congress	Bennie G. Thompson Member of Congress	Betty McCollum Member of Congress
Bill Foster Member of Congress	Bobby L. Rush Member of Congress	Bonnie Watson Coleman Member of Congress
Brenda L. Lawrence Member of Congress	Carolyn B. Maloney Member of Congress	Cedric L. Richmond Member of Congress
Donald M. Payne, Jr. Member of Congress	Danny K. Davis Member of Congress	Darren Soto Member of Congress
David E. Price Member of Congress	David N. Cicilline Member of Congress	David Scott Member of Congress
Deb Haaland Member of Congress	Debbie Dingell Member of Congress	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell Member of Congress
Dina Titus Member of Congress	Doris Matsui Member of Congress	Earl Blumenauer Member of Congress
Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress	Eliot L. Engel Member of Congress	Emanuel Cleaver, II Member of Congress
Filemon Vela Member of Congress	Frank Pallone, Jr. Member of Congress	Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress
G. K. Butterfield Member of Congress	Gerald E. Connolly Member of Congress	Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr. Member of Congress
Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress	Grace Meng Member of Congress	Greg Stanton Member of Congress
Gregory W. Meeks Member of Congress	Gwen Moore Member of Congress	Hakeem Jeffries Member of Congress
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. Member of Congress	J. Luis Correa Member of Congress	Jackie Speier Member of Congress
Jahana Hayes Member of Congress	James P. McGovern Member of Congress	James R. Langevin Member of Congress
Jamie Raskin Member of Congress	Jan Schakowsky Member of Congress	Jared Huffman Member of Congress

Jason Crow
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
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Norma J. Torres
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Pete Aguilar
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Ro Khanna
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Steven Horsford
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Tony Cárdenas
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Vicente Gonzalez
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Joyce Beatty
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Jerrold Nadler
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Jimmy Panetta
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José E. Serrano
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Judy Chu
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Katherine Clark
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Yvette D. Clarke
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Raul Ruiz, M.D.
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress

Joe Neguse
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
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Linda T. Sánchez
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Lori Trahan
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Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Paul D. Tonko
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Raúl Grijalva
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Ruben Gallego
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Scott H. Peters
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Suzanne Bonamici
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TJ Cox
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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