



November 2, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim Jordan
Chair
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Durbin, Ranking Member Graham, Chair Jordan, and Ranking Member Nadler:

On behalf of the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC), the National Conference for State Legislatures (NCSL), and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), we respectfully request the passage of legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers. As a result of the September 13 Texas District Court ruling holding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program unlawful, it is now more urgent than ever that legislation is passed to protect the DACA program.

Given the central role that state and local governments play ensuring the health and safety of all members of our nation's communities, we are important stakeholders in discussions related to federal immigration policies. State and local governments support comprehensive immigration reform that allows immigrants to contribute to the nation's workforce. Immigrant labor and expertise are vital to our nation's economy, and it is essential that we ensure employers can hire and retain a qualified and legal workforce.

The cultural, economic, and social contributions of nearly 600,000 DACA recipients and their families to our communities cannot be overstated. Some 300,000 DACA recipients work in industries with labor shortages, including healthcare, business services, and education. Each year, DACA recipients and their households pay \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes on top of their payroll tax contributions to Social Security and Medicare. After taxes, DACA recipients and their households have a combined \$25.3 billion in spending power to put back into their communities.

We ask that you work to pass legislation to protect and provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients in order to strengthen our nation's immigration system and workforce. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew D. Chase".

Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clarence Anthony".

Clarence Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tim Storey".

Tim Storey
Chief Executive Officer
National Conference of State Legislatures

cc. All members of the 118th Congress