



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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TOM COCHRAN

July 28, 2017

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 201510

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham,

We write on behalf of the nation's mayors to thank you for offering bipartisan legislation that would enable Dreamers – people who have lived in America since they were children and built their lives here – to earn lawful permanent residence and eventually American citizenship if they meet certain criteria. You have our wholehearted support for the legislation, and we stand ready to do whatever we can to assist you in seeing it enacted into law.

Just last month at the 85th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, we adopted strong policy supporting extension of the DACA program and permanent legal status for Dreamers. We did this because it is the right thing to do – for Dreamers, for our communities and for our country.

DACA has benefitted nearly 800,000 undocumented youth since it began in 2012. With work authorization and without the fear of deportation, these young people have been able to participate in and contribute to our country, our cities and the nation's economy:

- Eighty-seven percent of DACA recipients are employed by American businesses, and six percent have started their own businesses, leading to higher wages and better economic outcomes.
- DACA recipients contribute 15.3 percent of their wages to taxes, which fund Social Security and Medicare, and DACA recipients are investing in assets like houses, and starting new businesses, bringing significant tax revenue to cities and states.
- It is expected that DACA recipients will contribute \$9.9 billion in tax contributions over the next four years, and at least \$433.4 billion to our gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade.

We need to make sure that DACA can continue until your bill is enacted into law so that these benefits can continue, and we need to see your bill enacted as quickly as possible. It would remove Dreamers' fears of deportation and allow them to contribute even more to the country they love, which for many is the only country they have known. They would be able to reach their full potential in

many ways, including serving in the military. The U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges to work with you to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Mitchell J. Landrieu
Mayor of New Orleans
President

Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles
Chair, USCM Latino Alliance

Jorge Elorza
Mayor of Providence
Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force

Tom Tait
Mayor of Anaheim
Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force