October 10, 2017

An Open Letter to the Congress on Dreamers from America’s Mayors

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate:

We write on behalf of the nation’s mayors to urge you to quickly pass 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. We pledge to work with you in this effort and to do whatever we can to assist you in seeing it enacted into law.

This June at the 85th Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors, we adopted strong policy supporting permanent legal status for Dreamers and extension of the DACA program. 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, who have done nothing illegal, 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.

There is broad public support for Dreamers:

- Seventy-six percent of Americans support citizenship or permanent status for Dreamers.
- Seventy-one percent of Americans feel undocumented immigrants working in the U.S. should be offered a chance to apply for legal status.
- Seventy-five percent of Americans who voted for the President support Dreamers.
Because of the Trump Administration’s decision to terminate DACA in six months, this legislation must be passed as quickly as possible so that the benefits to Dreamers, to our cities, and to our nation can continue. 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,

Mayor Mitchell J. Landrieu, New Orleans, Louisiana, President
Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia, South Carolina, Vice President
Mayor Bryan K. Barnett, Rochester Hills, Michigan, Second Vice President
Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, California, Chair, USCM Latino Alliance
Mayor Jorge Elorza, Providence, Rhode Island, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force
Mayor Tom Tait, Anaheim, California, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force
Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

Mayor William A. Bell Sr., Birmingham, Alabama
Mayor Georgia Lord, Goodyear, Arizona
Mayor John Giles, Mesa, Arizona
Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, Arizona
Mayor Mark W. Mitchell, Tempe, Arizona
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, Arizona
Mayor Lionel Jordan, Fayetteville, Arkansas
Mayor Mark Stodola, Little Rock, Arkansas
Mayor Jesse Arreuguin, Berkeley, California
Mayor Liz Gibbons, Campbell, California
Mayor Mary Casillas Salas, Chula Vista, California
Mayor Savita Vaidhyanathan, Cupertino, California
Mayor Scott Donahue, Emeryville, California
Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Fontana, California
Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach, California
Mayor Rob Schroder, Martinez, California
Mayor Teresa Real Sebastian J.D., Monterey Park, California
Mayor Yxstian Gutierrez, Moreno Valley, California
Mayor Steve Tate, Morgan Hill, California
Mayor Jill Techel, Napa, California
Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland, California
Mayor Sue Higgins, Oakley, California
Mayor Terry Tornek, Pasadena, California
Mayor Donald Terry, Rancho Cordova, California
Mayor Thomas K. Butt, Richmond, California
Mayor Darrell Steinberg, Sacramento, California
Mayor Jim Ruane, San Bruno, California
Mayor Kevin L. Faulconer, San Diego, California
Mayor Edwin M. Lee, San Francisco, California
Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose, California
Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter, San Leandro, California
Mayor Heidi Harmon, San Luis Obispo, California
Mayor Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, California
Mayor Ted Winterer, Santa Monica, California
Mayor Chris Coursey, Santa Rosa, California
Mayor Michael D. Tubbs, Stockton, California
Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci, Union City, California
Mayor John Heilman, West Hollywood, California
Mayor Christopher L. Cabaldon, West Sacramento, California
Mayor Steve Hogan, Aurora, Colorado
Mayor Suzanne Jones, Boulder, Colorado
Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver, Colorado
Mayor Joe Ganim, Bridgeport, Connecticut
Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc, East Hartford, Connecticut
Mayor Luke Bronin, Hartford, Connecticut
Mayor Toni Harp, New Haven, Connecticut
Mayor Harry Rilling, Norwalk, Connecticut
Mayor David Martin, Stamford, Connecticut
Mayor Muriel Bowser, Washington, District of Columbia
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Mayor Oliver G. Gilbert III, Miami Gardens, Florida
Mayor Wayne M. Messam, Miramar, Florida
Mayor John Adornato III, Oakland Park, Florida
Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando, Florida
Mayor Michael J. Ryan, Sunrise, Florida
Mayor Geraldine 'Jeri' Muoio Ph.D., West Palm Beach, Florida
Mayor Daniel J. Stermer, Weston, Florida
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Mayor Nina Jonas, Ketchum, Idaho
Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago, Illinois
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Mayor Rodney S. Craig, Hanover Park, Illinois
Mayor Nancy Rodkin Rotering, Highland Park, Illinois
Mayor Kevin C. Richardson, Lake Barrington, Illinois
Mayor Chris Koos, Normal, Illinois
Mayor Thomas P. McNamara, Rockford, Illinois
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Mayor James Brainard, Carmel, Indiana
Mayor Thomas 'Tom' C. Henry, Fort Wayne, Indiana
Mayor Karen M. Freeman-Wilson, Gary, Indiana
Mayor Pete Buttigieg, South Bend, Indiana
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Mayor Martin J. Walsh, Boston, Massachusetts
Mayor Bill Carpenter, Brockton, Massachusetts
Mayor E Denise Simmons, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Mayor Carlo DeMaria Jr., Everett, Massachusetts
Mayor Stephanie M. Burke, Medford, Massachusetts
Mayor Jon Mitchell, New Bedford, Massachusetts
Mayor Setti D. Warren, Newton, Massachusetts
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Mayor Tim Willson, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota
Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, Burnsville, Minnesota
Mayor Emily Larson, Duluth, Minnesota
Mayor Betsy Hodges, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Mayor Ardell F. Brede, Rochester, Minnesota
Mayor Errick D. Simmons, Greenville, Mississippi
Mayor Sylvester 'Sly' James Jr., Kansas City, Missouri
Mayor Lyda Krewson, St. Louis, Missouri
Mayor Debra March, Henderson, Nevada
Mayor Hillary Schieve, Reno, Nevada
Mayor Michael J. Venezia, Bloomfield, New Jersey
Mayor Brad J. Cohen, East Brunswick Township, New Jersey
Mayor Lester E. Taylor III, East Orange, New Jersey
Mayor J Christian Bollwage, Elizabeth, New Jersey
Mayor Francis 'Mac' Womack III, North Brunswick, New Jersey
Mayor Brian C. Wahler, Piscataway, New Jersey
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Mayor Javier Perea, Sunland Park, New Mexico
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Mayor Lovely A. Warren, Rochester, New York
Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, Schenectady, New York
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Mayor Lydia Lavelle, Carrboro, North Carolina
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Mayor William 'Bill' V. Bell, Durham, North Carolina
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Mayor John Cranley, Cincinnati, Ohio
Mayor Frank G. Jackson, Cleveland, Ohio
Mayor Andrew J. Ginther, Columbus, Ohio
Mayor Nan Whaley, Dayton, Ohio
Mayor Lydia L. Mihalik, Findlay, Ohio
Mayor David J. Berger, Lima, Ohio
Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Toledo, Ohio
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Mayor Gina Noble, Stillwater, Oklahoma
Mayor Denny Doyle, Beaverton, Oregon
Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis, Oregon
Mayor Lucy Vinis, Eugene, Oregon
Mayor Shane T. Bemis, Gresham, Oregon
Mayor Ted Wheeler, Portland, Oregon
Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, Pennsylvania
Mayor Robert Donchez, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania
Mayor Salvatore J. Panto Jr., Easton, Pennsylvania
Mayor J Richard Gray, Lancaster, Pennsylvania
Mayor Jim Kenney, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Mayor William Peduto, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Mayor C Kim Bracey, York, Pennsylvania
Mayor James A. DiOssa, Central Falls, Rhode Island
Mayor Donald Grebien, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
Mayor John J. Tecklenburg, Charleston, South Carolina
Mayor Joseph T. McElveen Jr., Sumter, South Carolina
Mayor Kim McMillan, Clarksville, Tennessee
Mayor Madeline Anne Rogero, Knoxville, Tennessee
Mayor Megan Barry, Nashville, Tennessee
Mayor Steve Adler, Austin, Texas
Mayor Mike Rawlings, Dallas, Texas
Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, Texas
Mayor Miro Weinberger, Burlington, Vermont
Mayor John Hollar, Montpelier, Vermont
Mayor Allison Silberberg, Alexandria, Virginia
Mayor McKinley L. Price DDS, Newport News, Virginia
Mayor Levar Stoney, Richmond, Virginia
Mayor Dave Earling, Edmonds, Washington
Mayor Andy Ryder, Lacey, Washington
Mayor Cheryl L. Selby, Olympia, Washington
Mayor Tim Burgess, Seattle, Washington
Mayor Chris Roberts, Shoreline, Washington
Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma, Washington
Mayor Allan Ekberg, Tukwila, Washington
Mayor Paul R. Soglin, Madison, Wisconsin
Mayor Thomas 'Tom' Barrett, Milwaukee, Wisconsin