



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF CHICAGO

RAHM EMANUEL
MAYOR

December 7, 2016

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
5th Avenue & E 56th Street
New York, New York 10019

Re: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Dear President-Elect Trump:

On behalf of the undersigned municipal leaders, we ask your Administration to continue to accept and adjudicate initial applications and renewals for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) until Congress modernizes our immigration system and provides a more permanent form of relief for these individuals. As you know, DACA helps ensure that young people that were brought to the United States before they turned 16, and are actively seeking higher education, working or engaged in military service, can stay in their homes and communities without fear of deportation. This program helps foster economic growth and enhances public safety and national security.

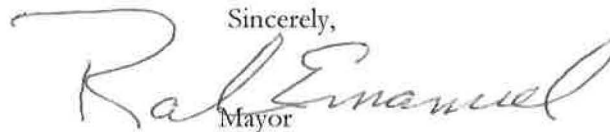
Nearly 742,000 undocumented youth have participated in DACA since it began in 2012. With work authorization and without the fear of deportation, these young people have been able to participate in and contribute to our cities, our country and our economy. These youth have deep economic and social ties to our nation. Many of them have been educated in American schools and employed by American business owners. They paid fees, submitted fingerprints and underwent background checks.

As you know, there is a history of deep bi-partisan support for these young people who were brought to this country before they were 16. Republican members of Congress have led and supported efforts—like the original DREAM act (R-Hatch), the ACHIEVE Act (R-Hutchinson, R-Kyl, R-McCain), and the STARS Act (R-Rivera), the Military Enlistment Opportunity Act (R-Coffman), the ENLIST Act (R-Denham) — to provide them relief, work authorization and continue allowing them to be active members of society. Recently, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) urged your Administration to reconsider ending DACA. We were encouraged when you yourself met with DREAM Act recipients and advocates and, after hearing their stories and calls for relief, said, “You’ve convinced me.”

DACA is good for our nation’s economy. Eighty-seven percent of DACA recipients are employed with American businesses. Six percent of DACA recipients started their own businesses, higher than the American public (3.1%). All of these things translate into higher wages and better economic outcomes. DACA recipients are also investing in assets like houses and starting new businesses, bringing significant tax revenue to cities and states across the country. DACA recipients contribute 15.3 percent of their wages to taxes, which fund Social Security and Medicare. Eliminating the program would lead to the loss of \$9.9 billion in tax contributions over the next four years. Ending DACA would wipe away at least \$433.4 billion from the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade.

DACA makes our communities and country safer—both in terms of national security and public safety. The Armed Forces rely on DACA applicants to serve through Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), which enlists individuals who are fluent in critical languages or possess medical professional skills essential to the defense of our nation. DACA is also an asset to domestic public safety. Ninety percent of DACA recipients obtained a driver’s license or state identification card as a result of DACA, and 54 percent purchased cars after getting DACA, resulting in more insured and licensed drivers on American streets. This means that they are driving after studying the official “Rules of the Road”, with insurance, and with a secure ID. in case of an accident, for local police needs, or for hospitals in health emergencies. This means that cities and their roads are safer for the DACA recipient, other drivers, the police, and the healthcare system.

Ensuring DREAMers can continue to live and work in their communities without fear of deportation is the foundation of sound, responsible immigration policy. Ending DACA would disrupt the lives of close to one million young people, and it would disrupt the sectors of the American economy, as well as our national security and public safety, to which they contribute. We encourage your Administration to demonstrate your commitment to the American economy and our security by continuing DACA until Congress modernizes our immigration system and provides a more permanent form of relief for these individuals.

Sincerely,

Mayor

Mayor Megan Barry
Nashville, TN

Mr. Isiah Leggett
County Executive, Montgomery County, MD

Mayor Bill de Blasio
New York, NY

Mayor Sam Liccardo
San Jose, CA

Mayor Jorge Elorza
Providence, RI

Mayor Ed Murray
Seattle, WA

Mayor Eric Garcetti
Los Angeles, CA

Former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake
Baltimore, MD

Mayor Robert Garcia
Long Beach, CA

Mayor Francis Slay
St. Louis, MO

Mayor Michael B. Hancock
Denver, CO

Mayor Greg Stanton
Phoenix, AZ

Mayor Betsy Hodges
Minneapolis, MN

Mayor Sylvester Turner
Houston, TX

Mayor Jim Kenney
Philadelphia, PA

Mayor Marty Walsh
Boston, MA

Mayor Ed Lee
San Francisco, CA