

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 22, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Trump:

We write to express our support for maintaining the protections of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) for current recipients of the policy. We understand and deeply respect the rule of law, and firmly believe that those who have violated the law must face fair consequences. We also have a responsibility to apply the law in the manner required by the circumstances.

Children brought to the United States at a young age did not have a choice in the matter. They did not willingly seek to violate American statutes when they traveled with their families across our borders, as the alternative was often life without primary caregivers. Such cases require careful and thoughtful analysis about what is in the best interests of our country. For many, the United States is the only country they know or remember. They speak English, educate themselves at American schools, and may be starting careers. They have already passed a background check to qualify for DACA status. Because they now have work permits, they are making immediate contributions to our society and our economy. They are paying taxes, receiving driver's licenses, and buying cars and first homes, all of which generates revenue for federal, state, and local governments.

Targeting those with deferred status would also divert massive resources away from enforcement actions against criminals who pose the greatest threat to law and order. We strongly support your commitment to deporting those who have broken our laws, and we believe the resources that might be directed towards targeting those with DACA status would be better spent on targeting criminals.


According to a recent study by the CATO Institute, deporting the approximately 750,000 people registered in the program would cost over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.


It is in the best interest of our nation to continue DACA until we can pass a permanent legislative solution, such as the Republican-backed *Recognizing America's Children Act*.

Thank you for your continued work to improve and defend our great country.

Respectfully,

  
Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

  
David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress

  
Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress

  
Don Bacon  
Member of Congress

  
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress