

August 10, 2021

Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leader Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Leader Charles Schumer
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Leader Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell

As leading members of the U.S. startup ecosystem—incubators, accelerators, support organizations, and companies—responsible for significant job and economic growth, we write to you concerning the recent Fifth Circuit ruling on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which finds the program unlawful. We form the fabric of the innovation ecosystem across the country, some of us immigrants ourselves, and we urge U.S. policymakers to swiftly enact a permanent solution for Dreamers. Without Dreamers—many of whom represent STEM talent on which startups rely or are founders themselves—the U.S. risks the dynamism and diversity central to our position as a leader in innovation.

Entrepreneurs have long recognized the importance of Dreamers. They make significant contributions to the U.S. economy, with reports estimating that a repeal of DACA would lead to a \$460 billion loss in GDP over a decade.¹ They are business leaders, and launch new businesses at rates that outpace native-born Americans.² They are job creators—businesses launched by DACA recipients employ an estimated 86,000 workers across the country.³ And Dreamers represent a significant portion of a much-needed talent pool in the U.S., serving critical roles in STEM fields including in healthcare and engineering.⁴ Failing to ensure a permanent solution for those that have contributed so much to the innovation ecosystem is both wrong and bad economic policy.

It is imperative that Congress passes legislation providing legal certainty—including a pathway to citizenship—for Dreamers. Without subsequent legislative action, the ruling prevents thousands of

¹ FWD.us, *The Impact of DACA Program Repeal on American Jobs*, <https://www.fwd.us/news/daca-impact-report/>.

² Tim K. Wong, et al, *DACA Recipients' Livelihoods, Families, and Sense of Security Are at Stake This November* (Sept. 19, 2019),

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/19/474636/daca-recipients-livelihoods-families-sense-security-stake-november/>; *New American Economy, DACA-Eligible Entrepreneurs Earned More Than \$658.7 Million in Total Business Income in 2015* (Jan. 31, 2018),

<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/press-release/daca-eligible-entrepreneurs-earned-more-than-658-7-million-in-total-business-income-in-2015/>.

³ Claudia Flores and Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, *Why DACA Matters* (April 29, 2021),

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2021/04/29/498944/why-daca-matters/>.

⁴ TheDream.us, *America's DREAMers: What You Need to Know About this Growing Diverse Talent Pool* (June 2020), <https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/TheDream.US-Career-Connections-Employer-Fact-Sheet-June-2020.pdf>.

individuals from emerging from the shadows, inhibiting their ability to legally work and contribute to the only country many Dreamers have ever known. And for those who still have DACA protections, the possibility of future legal efforts and no legislative solution in sight means their lives continue to be mired with uncertainty.

Innovation is central to the American experience, and Dreamers play a critical role in our diverse startup ecosystem. Policymakers must ensure that Dreamers have the safety and security they need so that the U.S. can continue to remain a leading hub for startup growth and innovation, embracing founders and talent that have spent most of their lives calling the U.S. home.

Sincerely,

1859 Ventures	Indiegogo, Inc.	ShareProgress
76 Forward (f.k.a. 1776)	Karma+	Sort-E
A Kids Book About Inc	Latinx Startup Alliance	Southern Cross Venture Partners
ACME AtronOmatic LLC	Libib	Sparklehorse Media LLC
Alloy	Lithic Technology LLC	TechUnited:NJ
AlphaHill	Little Sous, Inc.	The Coworking Center
Arkatecht	Loop & Tie	Tono Latino
Authentise Inc	Lovely	Unshackled Ventures
Baru Inc.	M1PR, Inc.	Upgraded Technologies Inc
bluesalve partners	Make Startups	Vertex Ventures
Boundless Immigration	MENTOR\$CHIP, INC	Via
Brave Founders	Mercury Fund	Voqal
Cofounders Capital	Neighborland	Wonderfil
Contextly	Nombolo	Work Bigger
Craig Newmark	OfficeNinjas	ZibaHub
Philanthropies	Onfleet, Inc.	
CrowdCheck, Inc.	OpenGrants	
Crowdfundingroadmap Inc	OPT Industries	
Digital4Startups Inc.	PIE	
Empathy Rocks, Inc.	PIONEERS 21	
Engine	Productions.com	
Envelope	Puppet, Inc	
Felt, Inc.	Radius, Inc.	
Fiskkit	Reco	
Futureproof	Reddit	
Goalden Hour	Routegy	
HumanKind Homes	Rubitection	
IncentiLock LLC	SAIL	
INCOMPAS	SEED SPOT	