Andria Strano  
Acting Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy  
Division of Humanitarian Affairs  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
5900 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746  

November 24, 2021  

Re: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0006  

As leading members of the U.S. startup ecosystem—incubators, accelerators, support organizations, and companies—and as immigrants, employers, and drivers of economic growth and job creation, we write in support of the proposed rulemaking for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and encourage policymakers to take further steps toward providing a pathway to citizenship for all Dreamers.

Upon finding the DACA program unlawful in July 2021, the Fifth Circuit closed the door to new DACA applicants. And although those who already had status were not affected, the ruling, and inevitable continued legal challenges, brought further uncertainty to those already legally protected.

Critics of the DACA program fail to acknowledge the benefits the program brings for all Americans. The ability to work and live in the United States is not simply an advantage for those who receive DACA protection. Rather, DACA recipients, and Dreamers more broadly, represent a vital segment of the U.S. workforce, including in critical STEM fields like medicine and engineering, and they are essential to the vibrancy of our startup ecosystem. Failing to affirm protections for Dreamers is short-sighted, and quite simply, the wrong thing to do for long-term U.S. economic growth. Reports indicate that repealing the DACA program would result in a $460 billion loss in GDP over a decade. Further, DACA recipients are employed at high levels and have impressive rates of entrepreneurship—they launch new businesses at rates that exceed those of U.S.’ general population. And

importantly, particularly amidst recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, DACA recipients are job creators—businesses launched by DACA recipients employ an estimated 86,000 workers across the country. Many of these workers are employed at technology companies, helping to shape the next generation of products and services that cement the United States’ status as a leader in innovation.

While this rulemaking is critical, particularly in light of recent judicial activity, it must be noted that purely “preserving and fortifying” DACA is not enough to safeguard DACA recipients’ and Dreamers’ status in the U.S. Policymakers across government simply must do more, including by supporting and passing legislation that provides permanent legal protections.

Innovation is a core component of the American experience, as is the diversity of those residing in the U.S. Providing certainty for Dreamers is the right thing to do, and failing to do so sends the message to the international community that the U.S. is not a welcoming and hospitable place for talented innovators and high-skilled workers.

We urge you to continue to protect the eligibility and rights of DACA recipients, and we encourage DHS to work to more broadly provide security to all Dreamers. Doing so will ensure that the U.S. remains a leading destination for startup formation and growth.

Sincerely,

ACME AtronOmatic LLC
Allied for Startups
Arkansas Venture Center
Authentise Inc
Avventuras Ltd
Boundless Immigration
Coach.me
Cofounders Capital
Compound Eye
Crea7ive Interactive Advertising, Corp
CrowdCheck, Inc.
Digital4Startups Inc.
Founder Collective
Hacom LLC
iFixit
Indiegogo, Inc
Libib
M1PR, Inc.

MongoDB
OculoTherapy
Onflecks, Inc.
OpenGrants
PIE
Postagraph, Inc
Reddit
RevUp Capital
Sandwich.Net, LLC
ShareProgress
ThredUp Inc.
Tono Latino
Tostie Productions, LLC
UnaliWear
Upgraded Technologies Inc
Washington Technology Industry Association
Xerb

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