

December 14, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

We, the undersigned Latino Leaders, urge Senate Republicans and Democrats to come together to find a bipartisan solution to provide much needed relief to immigrant youth and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients. In recent months, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals declared the original 2012 DACA policy unlawful, which has set the stage for this incredibly successful and popular program to be struck down by the Supreme Court. Resolution of this issue is of critical importance to America's Hispanic community, as the futures of many of our families and community members hang on by the thinnest of judicial threads.

**Senate Republicans and Democrats now have an opportunity to address this issue once and for all during the so-called Lame Duck session of the 117th Congress. We urge you to work together on a way forward and prioritize this issue in any end-of-year package. It may well be now or never for Dreamers.**

As you know, DACA was announced by President Obama on June 15, 2012, and since then it has empowered undocumented youth to be vital contributors to their communities and country. Many DACA recipients work as first responders or in other essential jobs like doctors and nurses, educators teaching the next generation of American children, small business owners creating jobs and contributing to the tax base, and so much more. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, alone, an [estimated 343,000](#) DACA recipients worked on the front lines at increased personal risk as teachers, healthcare professionals, and food processors all essential workers and industries facing worker shortages.

However, DACA was always intended to be a stopgap measure until Congress acted to find a permanent solution. The course of litigation suggests that any further delay could cause irreparable harm to these individuals and their families, with ripple effects to their workplaces and our economy generally. Indeed, DACA holders are powerful engines of economic growth, [contributing](#) an estimated \$9.5 billion annually in local, state, and federal taxes and [running](#) an estimated 45,000 businesses. When the last DACA recipient's work permit expires, the U.S. will have lost more than 500,000 jobs, and the U.S. economy will lose as much as \$11.7 billion annually – or roughly \$1 billion monthly – in wages from previously employed DACA recipients. It is thus no surprise why more than 80 of the nation's top business leaders also recently [wrote to you](#) urging action on this matter by the end of the year.

One thing is crystal clear: Hispanic voters support permanent protections for Dreamers and other undocumented communities. [Seventy eight percent of Latino voters](#) in battleground states say that Congress should act to protect Dreamers if a federal court overturns the DACA program. Immigration is personal for many in our communities; while 8 in 10 Latinos are U.S. Citizens: fully half of Hispanics, including battleground voters, say they personally know someone who is undocumented. When it comes to DACA, the average DACA recipient has lived in the U.S. for well over 20 years establishing deep ties to America including as parents to an estimated [300,000](#) U.S.-born children whose futures would be at risk if DACA is not permanently protected.

We cannot afford for Congress to miss an important opportunity like the one before it now. The time for action is this year and as part of must-pass legislation. Latino communities across the US are watching who steps up to fight for Dreamers and who stands by as the lives of Dreamers, their families and communities are upended.

Sincerely,

Sergio Gonzales, Executive Director of the Immigration Hub  
Sonia Perez, Interim President & CEO, UnidosUS  
Cristina Tzintzún Ramirez, President and Executive Director, NextGen America  
Frankie Miranda, President and CEO, President, Hispanic Federation  
Matt A. Barreto, President, BSP Research  
Melissa Morales, President, Somos Votantes  
Hector Sanchez Barba, President, Mi Familia Vota  
Yoselin Genao Estrella, Executive Director, Neighborhood Housing Services of Queens CDC Inc.  
Maria F. Pinzon, Executive Director, Hispanic Services Council, Inc.  
Marisol Quevedo Rerucha, CEO, Heartset Consulting Group  
Marcos Vilar, President & CEO, Alianza for Progress  
Fernando S. Godinez, President and CEO, Mexican American Unity Council, Inc.  
Luz Gallegos, Executive Director, TODEC Legal Center  
Ramon Peguero, Esq., President & CEO, The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families  
Victor Leandry, Executive Director, El Centro de Servicios Sociales  
Maria Matzos, President & CEO, Latin American Community Center  
Isabel Garcia, Executive Director, RCMA  
Liz Rebecca Alarcón, Founder & Executive Director, Pulso  
Pilar Rocha-Goldberg, President & CEO, El Centro Hispano, Inc.  
Omar Carrera, CEO, Canal Alliance  
Katherine Archuleta, Founder and Co-Director, The Latina Initiative of Colorado  
Claudia Yoli Ferla, Executive Director, MOVE Texas Action Fund  
Luis Felipe Pinzon, President & CEO, Hispanic Unity of Florida  
Mario M. Carrera, President/CEO, Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization, CLLARO  
Cendi Tena, Interim Co-Executive Director, Leaders Igniting Transformation  
Ramiro A. Cavazos, President and CEO, United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
C. LeRoy Cavazos-Reyna, Vice Chairman, Texas Border Coalition  
Nathalie Reyes, President and CEO, Latino Victory Project  
Ignacio Salazar, CEO, SER Jobs for Progress National Inc.  
Lawrence Guzman Romo, American GI Forum of the United States Legislative Chairman, American GI Forum of the US  
Yanira Merino, Executive Director, LCLAA  
Gary Acosta, Co-Founder and CEO, NAHREP  
Ricardo Perez, Executive Director, Hispanic Affairs Project  
Nicholas Kukucka, Executive Director, The Ganas Network  
Luis Antezana Alba, Founder and CEO, Juntos (Techstars '21)  
Maria Gonzalez, Deputy Director, El Pueblo  
Iliana Santillan, Executive Director, El Pueblo  
Al Gallegos, National President, National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives  
Dr. Juan Andrade Jr., President and Executive Director, United States Hispanic Leadership Institute  
Uriel Berrum, Co-Founder and CEO, ScholarLead.com and Effct.org

Maria Teresa Kumar, President, Voto Latino  
Greisa Martinez, Executive Director, United We Dream  
Mauricio Calvo, CEO, Latino Memphis  
Lorella Praeli, Co-President, Community Change Action  
Arturo Vargas, CEO, NALEO Educational Fund  
Amy Hinojosa, President and CEO, MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Manuel X. Zamarripa, Co-Director, National Latinx Psychological Association  
Rosy Aburto-McDonough, Executive Director, Hispanic Contractors of Colorado (HCC) and HCC Contractor Academy  
Vanessa Cardenas, Executive Director, America's Voice  
Rachel Garcia, CEO, Colectiva  
Jerry Gonzalez, CEO, GALEO Impact Fund  
Sylvia Puente, President & CEO, Latino Policy Forum  
Meshach Rhoades, Co-Founder, Latinas First Foundation  
Juanita Chacon, Co-Founder, Latinas First Foundation  
Maegan Llerena, Executive Director, Make the Road Pennsylvania  
Leo Murrieta, Director, Make the Road Nevada  
Monica Ruiz, Executive Director, Casa San Jose  
Danilo Burgos, State Representative, Pennsylvania State Representative  
Felipe Sousa Lazaballet, Executive Director, Hope Community Center  
Barbara Lopez, Director, Make the Road Connecticut  
Karina Ruiz De Diaz, Executive Director, Arizona Dream Act Coalition  
Monica Sarmiento, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Lupe M. Rodriguez, Executive Director, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
Alejandra Gomez, Co-Executive Director, Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA)  
Juanita Valdez-Cox, Executive Director, La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
Dr. Antonio Flores, President, Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities