

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 22, 2020

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

Following the Supreme Court's landmark decision rejecting President Trump's repeal of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the Senate has a responsibility to consider legislation to protect the young immigrants who are eligible for DACA. We call on you to immediately schedule a vote in the Senate on H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, legislation to give DACA recipients a path to citizenship that passed the House of Representatives more than a year ago.

Eight years ago, following bipartisan requests from Congress, President Obama used his legal authority to establish DACA. DACA provides temporary protection from deportation on an individualized basis to immigrants who arrived in the United States as children if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass criminal and national security background checks.

The young people who are eligible for DACA, known as Dreamers, are American in every way except for their immigration status. More than 800,000 Dreamers have come forward and received DACA. DACA has unleashed the full potential of Dreamers, who are contributing to our country as soldiers, nurses, teachers, and small business owners, and in many other ways.

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 200,000 DACA recipients are working in occupational areas that the Trump Administration's Department of Homeland Security (DHS) identifies as part of the "essential critical infrastructure workforce." This includes an estimated 41,700 DACA recipients working in the health care industry, including physicians and physicians in training, intensive care nurses, paramedics, respiratory therapists, nursing assistants, and health technicians. Congress must take action to ensure these essential workers are not deported to countries they barely remember even as our nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic. While the Supreme Court's decision provides temporary protection, we must continue the fight for full protection for these members of our communities.

When President Trump announced his repeal of DACA, he called on Congress to "legalize DACA," but since then, he has rejected numerous bipartisan deals to protect Dreamers. For example, on January 11, 2018, in a meeting in the Oval Office, he profanely rejected a bipartisan immigration agreement that included protection for Dreamers and a large down payment on the President's beloved border wall. On February 15, 2018, the Senate considered a bipartisan

amendment offered by Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Angus King (I-ME), which included a path to citizenship for Dreamers. A bipartisan majority supported the amendment, but it failed to reach the 60 votes needed to pass because the Trump Administration issued a strident statement of opposition. On the same day, the Senate rejected the President’s hardline immigration proposal by a bipartisan supermajority of 39-60.

With Republicans in the majority, the United States Senate has failed to challenge the most anti-immigrant President in modern history. In the 116th Congress, the Border Security and Immigration Subcommittee has held only one hearing; the Senate Judiciary Committee has voted on only one immigration bill – the Trump Administration’s anti-asylum bill – and the Republican majority limited debate to only one hour and did not allow a single amendment to be offered; and you, as Majority Leader, have not brought a single immigration bill to the floor of the Senate.

It is not too late to change course. As Majority Leader, you can immediately schedule a vote in the Senate for the American Dream and Promise Act. It would be an American tragedy to deport DACA recipients who are saving lives in the midst of this pandemic. We must ensure these talented young immigrants are not forced to stop working when the need for their public service has never been greater. And we must give them the chance they deserve to become American citizens.

We, and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers, await your response.

Sincerely,

Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Antonio Delgado
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Luján
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Al Green
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Ami Bera, M.D.
Member of Congress

Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

André Carson
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence Member of Congress	Carolyn B. Maloney Member of Congress	Cedric L. Richmond Member of Congress
Cindy Axne Member of Congress	Danny K. Davis Member of Congress	Darren Soto Member of Congress
David E. Price Member of Congress	David N. Cicilline Member of Congress	David Scott Member of Congress
Deb Haaland Member of Congress	Debbie Dingell Member of Congress	Debbie Mucarsel-Powell Member of Congress
Dina Titus Member of Congress	Doris Matsui Member of Congress	Earl Blumenauer Member of Congress
Eleanor Holmes Norton Member of Congress	Eliot L. Engel Member of Congress	Emanuel Cleaver, II Member of Congress
Filemon Vela Member of Congress	Frank Pallone, Jr. Member of Congress	Frederica S. Wilson Member of Congress
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Grace F. Napolitano Member of Congress	Grace Meng Member of Congress	Greg Stanton Member of Congress
Gregory W. Meeks Member of Congress	Gwen Moore Member of Congress	Hakeem Jeffries Member of Congress
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr. Member of Congress	J. Luis Correa Member of Congress	Jackie Speier Member of Congress
Jahana Hayes Member of Congress	James P. McGovern Member of Congress	James R. Langevin Member of Congress
Jamie Raskin Member of Congress	Jan Schakowsky Member of Congress	Jared Huffman Member of Congress
Jason Crow Member of Congress	Jerrold Nadler Member of Congress	Jesús G. "Chuy" García Member of Congress
Jim Costa Member of Congress	Jimmy Panetta Member of Congress	Joe Neguse Member of Congress
John Garamendi Member of Congress	José E. Serrano Member of Congress	Joseph P. Kennedy, III Member of Congress
Juan Vargas Member of Congress	Judy Chu Member of Congress	Julia Brownley Member of Congress
Karen Bass Member of Congress	Katherine Clark Member of Congress	Linda T. Sánchez Member of Congress

Lisa Blunt Rochester
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Madeleine Dean
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Norma J. Torres
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Pete Aguilar
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Ro Khanna
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