



March 12, 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Senator Schumer:

When the president announced the end of the DACA program last September, he encouraged Congress to pass legislation to protect the Dreamers before the program concluded on March 5. Earlier this week, however, Congress allowed the deadline to pass without legislative action.

Having missed that deadline, it is even more important for Congress to act on legislation to provide Dreamers permanent status and an opportunity for citizenship. In the days ahead, as you work toward passage of legislation to fund the federal government for the remainder of 2018, we encourage you to include such legislation in this omnibus funding measure.

As you know, the Dreamers are young people who were brought to the United States as children through no fault of their own. They know no other home. They are students. They are workers. They are teachers. They are men and women serving in our Armed Forces, defending this nation and its interests. The many Dreamers currently residing in this country are contributing to their communities and helping to make this nation stronger. Like us, they believe in America's future and want to be a part of it. Dreamers are patriotic Americans who lack legal status. It is clear there is strong support in Congress and among the American people to permit them to remain.

In today's environment, the way to provide protection to the Dreamers is through a bipartisan compromise that provides them with a long term, permanent status, while also enhancing the security of America's borders. Although proposals have been advanced to provide temporary or renewable protections, or to address status through unilateral executive action, these measures are inadequate. They can be revoked, canceled, or struck down through court decisions. Only permanent statutory action by Congress can allow the Dreamers, their families, and their communities to plan for the future. Without that certainty, their contributions to their communities and our nation will be unnecessarily limited.

Many members of the House of Representatives and the Senate have made clear their desire to see legislation pass. Polling shows that the vast majority of Americans want action – with more than 90 percent calling this issue either “important” or “very important” in [a recent national poll](#). It would be a major mistake for Congress to fail to act on this priority of the American people.

As organizations and individuals dedicated to advancing the interests of the Hispanic community in the United States, we call on you to pass a solution and stand ready to assist you in any way possible. We are hopeful that you will incorporate Dreamer protections into the omnibus funding bill that is expected to pass Congress in the next few weeks.

Regards,

*Daniel Garza, President, The LIBRE Initiative*

*Alfonso Aguilar, President, Latino Partnership for Conservative Principles*

*Mario Lopez, President, Hispanic Leadership Fund*

*Hector Barreto, Chairman, The Latino Coalition*

*LULAC*

*Mario Rodriguez, Chairman, Hispanic 100*

*Jacob Monty, Center for Latino Jewish Relations*

*Don Salazar, Chairman of the Board, USHCC*

*Dr. Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference*

*National Hispanic Media Coalition*