

COALITION TO ACT ON DACA

March 1st, 2018

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

On behalf of our organizations and the millions of businesses, activists and families we represent across the country, we write to you today to urge you to act now and provide certainty for Dreamers and security for our country.

Many of the proposals seeking to address the legal status of Dreamers, including the White House framework contain a positive vision for providing these young people with the permanent ability to plan their lives in America. There is no question these individuals represent some of the best and brightest in our country. They are students, workers, and service members, earning their way, providing for their families and contributing to our communities. In fact, estimates show that DACA recipients contribute nearly \$42 billion to our annual GDP, and their contributions to our country will only grow when they have the certainty of a permanent legal status in the land they call home.

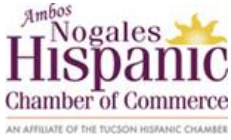
But there is also room for improvement and a need for urgency on your part. Provisions that result in a temporary solution, or reductions in legal immigration levels, can have long-term consequences to our economy and communities. Temporary solutions are not acceptable as they inhibit Dreamers from having the certainty needed to fully plan their lives and apply their talents in America. Additionally, it is estimated that cuts to legal immigration levels by an eventual 33% would result in a GDP loss of \$823 billion over the next decade. The U.S. labor market had a remarkable year in 2017 – the economy added 2.1 million jobs, small business confidence hit a record-high, the unemployment rate is near what many would consider full employment levels, and for Latinos, our community saw a record-low unemployment rate of 4.7%. With this growing and dynamic economy, our businesses need an equally dynamic and growing labor force, not a shrinking one.

It has been more than 30 years since significant reform to the immigration system was accomplished, and our country's economy is threatened because of the failure to reach any consensus on this issue. While we agree that the debate on greater immigration reform is long overdue, the opportunity before you should be more narrowly focused. Dreamers, as well as the families, communities, schools, and employers that depend on them, face an uncertain future with the impending March 5th deadline of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program. It is time for lawmakers in both parties to work on a permanent solution -- now.

We hope to continue to work together to improve the overall immigration system in the future.

Sincerely,

Daniel Garza
President
The LIBRE Initiative



The Leader of Houston's New Majority®



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