



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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July 9, 2020

## **An Open Letter to the President and Congress on Dreamers from America's Mayors**

Dear Mr. President and Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate:

We write on behalf of the nation's mayors to urge that the Administration fully maintain the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program until Congress passes legislation that would enable Dreamers – people who have lived in America since they were children and built their lives here – to earn lawful permanent residence and eventually American citizenship, if they meet certain criteria. And we urge Congress to seize the moment and pass this legislation as quickly as possible. We pledge to work with you in this effort and do whatever we can to assist you in seeing this important legislation enacted into law this year.

The United States Conference of Mayors has had strong policy supporting permanent legal status for Dreamers and extension of the DACA program for many years, and our bipartisan organization has adopted this policy because it is the right thing to do – for Dreamers, for our communities and for our country. The cultural, economic, and social contributions of the 800,000 DACA recipients and their families to their communities cannot be overstated, particularly during a global pandemic where over 200,000 DACA recipients are working in essential roles, including 27,000 in health care positions.

The decision by the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold the DACA program provided a reprieve to DACA recipients. It delivered a powerful message to Dreamers: this country belongs to you today and will remain your home tomorrow. Dreamers are our neighbors, colleagues, essential workers, entrepreneurs, students, and soldiers. For hundreds of thousands nationwide, this ruling was life-changing — a source of relief and a reason for celebration.

For these young people and every immigrant who strengthens America's economy, communities, and future, Congress must deliver on the promise of a long-term and humane legislative solution, so nobody's status hangs in the balance of uncertainty again. And, until it does so, the Administration must maintain the DACA program and continue to accept new applicants as they become eligible for it.

It is incumbent upon you to remove Dreamers' fears of deportation and allow them to contribute even more to the country they love, which for many is the only country they have known. They would be able to reach their full potential in many ways, including serving in the military. The U.S. Conference of Mayors pledges to work with you to make this happen.

Sincerely,

Greg Fischer  
Mayor of Louisville  
President

Nan Whaley  
Mayor of Dayton  
Vice President

Francis X. Suarez  
Mayor of Miami  
Second Vice President

Bryan K. Barnett  
Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI  
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Mayor of Columbia, SC  
Past President

Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Mayor of Burnsville  
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Eric Garcetti  
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