



CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS  
*Michelle Lujan Grisham | Chairwoman*  
115TH CONGRESS

October 3, 2017

Elaine C. Duke  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke,

We are writing to follow up on our September 21<sup>st</sup> letter to you concerning the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s rapidly approaching October 5<sup>th</sup> renewal deadline that affects approximately 154,000 DACA recipients. As we mentioned in that letter, we are very concerned that because DACA recipients were not individually notified of their eligibility for renewal, tens of thousands of DACA recipients could lose their work authorization and DACA status protections.

This in fact appears to be the case: a recent DHS update indicates that as of September 27<sup>th</sup>, approximately 50,000 DACA recipients, or nearly one-third of those eligible, had not submitted their renewal applications to DHS. Based on this concerning information, we request an urgent meeting with you to discuss the October 5<sup>th</sup> deadline and again urge you to reset this deadline for January 5, 2018.

At a September 27<sup>th</sup> Senate hearing, you stated that no request for an extension had been made and no DACA applicants had expressed an issue with this deadline. Several letters to DHS from Members of Congress have called for an extension, and data from DHS demonstrate that as many as 50,000 young people eligible for renewal will likely have an issue with the October 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. Moreover, as you acknowledged at the September 27<sup>th</sup> Senate hearing, the \$495 renewal fee may be an "issue" for those attempting to renew by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Given these concerns and barriers for renewal, we would like to meet with you to discuss the best path forward to ensure that all of the 154,000 eligible DACA recipients will have time to submit their completed application and \$495 fee so that they can continue to work, go to school and contribute to our nation's economy as Congress works to pass a permanent legislative fix.

Additionally, we would like clarity on what DHS's policy will be for DACA recipients as their status begins to expire. The Trump administration has stated that DACA recipients were not an enforcement priority before the termination of the program and will not become a priority now that the program is ending. However, there have been several cases of DACA recipients being detained and one DACA recipient, whose case is pending, was deported. Additionally, since the September 5<sup>th</sup> announcement, there have been several cases of DACA recipients being detained at border checkpoints while their DACA status was reviewed. DHS needs to provide guidance to

ICE and CBP officials to ensure that DACA recipients are not targeted for detention and deportation, as the Trump administration has insisted is the case.

Given the urgency of this matter, we would appreciate a response from you by October 4<sup>th</sup>. Please contact CHC Executive Director Alma Acosta at [alma.acosta@mail.house.gov](mailto:alma.acosta@mail.house.gov) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Michelle Lujan Grisham  
CHC Chairwoman

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
CHC Immigration and  
Border Issues Task Force  
Chair



Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member of the  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Homeland Security