

February 28, 2018

Dear U.S. Senators and U.S. House Representatives,

We, the undersigned immigration, refugee, faith, labor, and civil rights organizations, write to express our continued commitment to protect our vulnerable immigrant and refugee communities, which have been attacked by the Donald Trump Administration. Furthermore, we remain committed to securing a permanent solution for DREAMers and call on Congress to bring forth the DREAM Act for a vote. While we seek a solution for our youth, we will continue to oppose any measures that seek to harm other immigrant communities, further militarize the border, waste taxpayer dollars and separate families.

In the first year in office, the Trump Administration has undermined the progress made by previous administrations in the protections for people of color, immigrants, refugees, LGBTQ, and people of faith. A prime example is the issuance of the three Muslim Bans Executive Orders, which limit the migration of people from Muslim countries into the United States. It has been over one year since the first Muslim Ban, and we have had to witness thousands of our fellow community members endure physical, mental, and emotional trauma as a result of this ban. We have spent the past year fighting every version of this ban at the airports, in the courts, and on the streets. The Supreme Court has announced that it will hear the Muslim Ban case this spring, which means that we must continue to be active, engaged, and vigilant as our fight against discriminatory policies that violate our civil rights and harm our communities continues. Refugees and asylees are in constant danger for their lives, as this administration has made a decision to decrease refugee approvals and resettlement to historic lows. Women, children and entire families are left without refuge or signs of hope for a future without violence, war or persecution.

Since the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program by President Trump, our young people have been living from deadline to deadline, operating on unknowns while keeping hope alive that Congress will find a permanent solution for them. An estimated 19,000 DACA recipients have lost their ability to work, study, and live without fear of deportation since said termination.

The DACA population is diverse and includes youth from many different countries and backgrounds. LGBTQ immigrant youth in particular face unique challenges if Congress does not enact a permanent solution. In Fact, The Williams Institute at the University of California—Los Angeles, estimates that there are more than 75,000 Dreamers who identify as LGBT—with nearly half of them actively participating in the upended Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. If deported, many LGBTQ people will find themselves in a country where they have little to no legal rights and are more likely to experience anti-LGBTQ violence and possibly death. Nearly 80 countries criminalize same-sex relationships and many without explicit laws remain very dangerous for the LGBTQ community.

Earlier this month, the Senate had an opportunity to advance legislation. Instead the Senate offered partial solutions for DREAMers and attached harmful, cruel and racist policies to said solutions that would in turn harm the rest of the immigrant community. We strongly support the

DREAM Act as the ideal legislative vehicle. We also support a sensible alternative such as the Uniting and Securing America (USA) Act, which is another bipartisan and bicameral piece of legislation.

**In your deliberations in the coming days on how to proceed towards a permanent solution for immigrant youth, please consider that we will only support efforts that embody the following principles:**

- Grant full and equal citizenship to immigrant youth with sensible, affordable, and swift path to citizenship.
- Preserve and uphold legal migration and family reunification.
- Uphold the rights of refugees and asylees in their search for refuge and protection under U.S. due process and international human rights laws.
- Create laws that treat everyone equally, fairly and respectfully, no matter what country they come from or how much education or money they have, or what religion they practice.
- Invest in communities, uplifting and protecting border economies and diversity, instead of wasting taxpayer money in vanity projects at the border or the interior.
- The United States of America is a nation of immigrants.

**We will oppose legislation that:**

- Seeks to further militarize our borders and expand Trump's efforts to ramp up enforcement actions against asylum seekers, unaccompanied minors, and harms the rest of our immigrant community.
- Undermines the due process of immigrants by expediting cases without thorough review.
- Attacks the family unity immigration system by eliminating family unity categories, and/or create a second-tier citizenship class status for DREAM Act recipients by eliminating their right to reunite with their parents and siblings.
- Terminates the Diversity Visa System.
- Does not provide undocumented youth with a permanent solution and a pathway to citizenship.

The ruling issued by the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday, February 26, is a temporary relief, and the urgency for a permanent fix remains. We urge the Trump Administration to restore the memorandum signed by President Obama in 2012 and urge Congress enact a permanent solution for DREAMers and DACA recipients. We call on Congress to protect the due process of immigrant communities by strengthening oversight and transparency of the Department of Homeland Security on current immigration enforcement tactics and operations, including raids within communities. Refugee programs must be reauthorized, and Congress must combat the Administration's goal to admit less refugees at all measures possible. The ongoing rumors and most recent audits have created fear within the immigrant community, and in turn, undermine our economy statewide. We call on Congress to find a permanent fix for the estimated 300,000 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients who are also facing instability.

Furthermore, we demand the Trump Administration keep its word, and if a permanent solution to fix DACA is not reached by March 5, 2018, we request that Congress demand that the Administration restore the DACA program to its fullest extent. Please contact Isabel J. Sanchez, CHIRLA's Policy Advocate at [isanchez@chirla.org](mailto:isanchez@chirla.org) or at (213) 353-1334 should you have further questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

ACLU of California

African Coalition

Asians Advancing Justice – LA

Bend the Arc Southern California

California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Courage Campaign

Equality California

Innercity Struggle

International Rescue Committee in Los Angeles

Korean American Coalition – Los Angeles

Los Angeles LGBT Center

Mi Familia Vota

Monkey Wrench Brigade

North County Immigration Task Force

OCCCCO-PICO

People Organized for Westside Renewal (POWER)

Renovacion Carismatica, Archdiocese of Los Angeles

SEIU

SEIU Local 99

SEIU United Service Workers West

SFV Indivisible

SIREN

Trinity Episcopal Church

United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA)

West Valley Resistance