Dear Mr. President:

We respectfully request that you continue Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and engage in a vigorous legal defense of DACA in light of the renewed threat of litigation. Along with continuing to accept requests for DACA, we ask that you direct your administration to: (a) oppose any efforts to challenge DACA in the ongoing Texas v. United States litigation; (b) ask the court to dismiss the complaint in United States v. Texas; and (c) refuse any settlement that would end DACA.

On June 29, the Texas Attorney General, along with nine other attorney generals, in an attempt to usurp your authority, delivered to you an ultimatum threatening a legal challenge to DACA unless you ended the program by September 5, 2017. DOJ has already made problematic decisions in choosing not to oppose Texas’ request to stay the proceedings. We are further disturbed by Secretary Kelly’s comments that he does not believe DACA is legally or constitutionally defensible. Finally, we are concerned that Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who has historically opposed DACA, is now trying to abrogate your authority and set the Administration’s immigration policies, when, ultimately, you hold that authority. You have stated, you “understand the situation very well” and that the future of DACA is “a decision that [you] make,” not your subordinates. Furthermore, as you are aware, there is substantial legal support for the constitutionality of DACA. We commend your Administration’s continuation of DACA and encourage you to keep DACA in place until Congress enacts a permanent legislative solution for this population.

As you know, over 787,000 individuals currently possess a grant of DACA, all of whom were thoroughly vetted for national security and criminal backgrounds. Ending DACA would increase the nation’s undocumented population, profoundly and negatively impact our nation’s economy, contracting the nation’s GDP by $460.3 billion. Additionally, this reduces federal tax contributions to Social Security and Medicare by $24.6 billion over a decade, and costs businesses $3.4 billion in unnecessary turnover costs.

Ultimately, you set the government's immigration policy, including your Administration's position in regards to DACA. We urge you to respond to Texas's threat to your executive authority by directing the Attorney General to use all legal options to defend DACA and ensure that nearly one million DREAMers continue to contribute to our nation.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

[Signatures]

AILA Doc. No. 17080204. (Posted 8/2/17)
Letter to President Trump

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Marcia Fudge  
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

Jimmy Gomez  
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress

Colleen Hanabusa  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

Hakeem Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

Joseph P. Kennedy, III  
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress

Ruben J. Kihuen  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

Sander Levin  
Member of Congress
Cc: The Honorable Jeff Sessions, Attorney General, U.S. Department of Justice

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