

November 9, 2022

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The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Senate  
224 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Passage of The Dream Act before the End-of-Year

On behalf of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), I respectfully ask you to enact The Dream Act as a permanent and enduring solution to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and offer a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients.

HACU represents 559 Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs) and over 300 emerging HSIs, which collectively serve most of the of undocumented students in the nation whose journey to academic success has been protected by DACA. Recent studies show that 68% of DACA students are pursuing a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>1</sup>

A decade into DACA, more than 830,000 individuals have been granted deferred action. Many more are eligible for DACA status but are unable to apply due to proceedings in federal courts. Most of them were brought to the United States before the age of six and this is the only country they call home.<sup>2</sup> Now over 26 years old, on average, DACA-recipients are making significant contributions to the American economy and local communities as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, members of our military, skilled workers, neighbors, and tax-payers. For example, approximately 30,000 healthcare workers cared for the sick, served our neediest communities, and alleviated the shortage of health professionals at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.<sup>3</sup>

Our nation and local communities have come to rely on the economic contributions of DACA recipients who pay over \$6.2 billion in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion in state and local taxes each year. In addition, they have bought 68,000 homes, totaling \$760 million in mortgage payments and \$2.5 billion in rental payments, each year.<sup>4</sup> DACA recipients are also reported as outpacing the general population as small business creators. All these economic contributions strengthen the health of our nation's economy and social fabric.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/2021-survey-of-daca-recipients-underscores-the-importance-of-a-pathway-to-citizenship/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/demographic-profile-daca-recipients-frontlines-coronavirus-response/>

<sup>3</sup> [USCIS Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals \(DACA\) Quarterly Report \(Fiscal Year 2021, Q4\)](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021/04/USCIS-Deferred-Action-for-Childhood-Arrivals-(DACA)-Quarterly-Report-(Fiscal-Year-2021-Q4).pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/the-demographic-and-economic-impacts-of-daca-recipients-fall-2021-edition/>

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The passage of a permanent solution to DACA would uphold the values of America. DACA recipients enrich our country's cultural diversity, reinvigorate our labor force, and make significant contributions to our economic vitality. Congress needs to act swiftly to expedite the passage of the Dream Act as a down payment to comprehensive immigration reform.

Respectfully,



Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO

cc: The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
The Honorable Cory Booker  
The Honorable Chris Coons  
The Honorable John Cornyn  
The Honorable Tom Cotton  
The Honorable Ted Cruz  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
The Honorable Sen. Josh Hawley  
The Honorable Mazie Hirono  
The Honorable John Kennedy  
The Honorable Amy Klobuchar  
The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
The Honorable Mike Lee  
The Honorable Jon Ossoff  
The Honorable Alex Padilla  
The Honorable Ben Sasse  
The Honorable Thom Tillis  
The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse