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February 13, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As the Senate embarks on a series of immigration votes, we would like to express our views on a permanent legislative solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Dreamers on behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA's Report Card for the 115th Congress.

President Trump's decision to end the DACA program has jeopardized the lives and futures of 800,000 aspiring Americans. Approximately 22,000 DACA recipients have already lost their deportation protections and work permits, and more than 850 Dreamers are joining them every week; that number will skyrocket after March 5, when DACA ends. One-fourth of DACA recipients are parents and more than 9,000 are educators who may be forced to leave their classrooms and the only country they have ever truly known. These educators see firsthand how the decision to end DACA is hurting their students — many are consumed by stress and anxiety about what the future holds for them and their families. This cruel and immoral treatment could not be further from the ideals America is supposed to represent.

The delay in crafting a permanent legislative solution is unconscionable — especially when a fix with bipartisan support is at hand. We support the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440), which provides a pathway to citizenship via multiple tracks, including higher education, military service, and employment. To meet the need for immediate action, we also support a narrowly tailored solution that combines the Dream Act and reasonable border security measures.

We strongly oppose the Secure and Succeed Act, which codifies the Administration's four-pillar framework. This bill would fund a \$25 billion border wall with taxpayer dollars and mount a two-pronged attack on legal immigration that strikes at the heart of family unification: Immigrants would no longer be allowed to sponsor their parents, adult children or siblings, and the diversity visa program would be curtailed or eliminated. Together, these measures would take us back to the 1920s, when the United States explicitly excluded immigrants based on their race, ethnicity, and country of origin.

The [Center for Global Development](#) calculates that the proposed framework could cause immigration by blacks to decline by 64 percent, Hispanics by 58 percent, and Muslims and Catholics by more than 50 percent.

An overwhelming majority favors allowing Dreamers to remain here — a recent [Quinnipiac University](#) poll found that Americans support allowing Dreamers to stay and become citizens by an almost 8 to 1 margin. This poll is just one of many, over many years, to yield the same findings.

Congress should act now and pass a permanent legislative solution for all DACA recipients: the Dream Act of 2017, or a compromise that pairs the Dream Act with reasonable border security measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Egan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association