



June 19, 2018

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our three million members and the 50 million students they serve, we strongly urge you to VOTE NO on both immigration bills expected to be voted on this week. The Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018, or Ryan bill, adopts the previously rejected “four-pillar” approach advocated by the White House while the Securing America’s Future Act of 2018 (H.R. 4760), or Goodlatte bill, is even more draconian in its treatment of immigrants. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA’s Report Card for the 115th Congress.

The Ryan bill takes the “four pillars” approach that recently got just 39 votes in the Senate. It provides more than \$23 billion for a physical border wall most Americans oppose; drastically reduces family-based migration; eliminates the diversity visa lottery; guts our asylum laws; and, disappointingly outlines a very restrictive, convoluted pathway to citizenship that not even all DACA recipients would be able to attain.

The Goodlatte bill, H.R. 4760, is worse. Instead of a pathway to citizenship for all DACA recipients and Dreamers, it offers temporary, renewable legal status for six years; guts family-based migration; and ends the diversity visa lottery, among other harmful provisions.

President Trump’s decision *last year* to end Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has jeopardized the lives and futures of 800,000 participants in the DACA program, including more than 9,000 educators who may be forced to leave their classrooms and the only country they have ever truly known. Despite court decisions, many individuals, families and children continue to live in fear and uncertainty, when all they want to do is continue to live in and enrich this country.

NEA has long supported the bipartisan 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. We could also support a narrowly tailored solution that pairs the Dream Act with reasonable border security measures like those in the bipartisan USA Act (H.R. 4796). It is once again deeply disappointing that House GOP leadership is blocking votes on those measures and instead only allowing votes on two bills that fall far short of what DACA recipients and Dreamers need and deserve, while also adding other deeply harmful provisions to families.

Proponents of these two bills say they are a necessary legislative fix for the trauma of separating children from their parents and siblings at the border. **That is not true.** Contrary to various news

reports and Department of Homeland Security comments, there is no law that requires breaking up families. This is happening for one reason only: because the Trump administration has chosen to implement a “zero tolerance” *policy* in which innocent children have become pawns and a negotiating tool for the Administration’s immigration wishes. The Administration can and should reverse this cruel, inhumane policy immediately — and could do so with a simple directive, like the one that implemented the policy in the first place. The bills the House will vote on would keep children in detention for longer periods of time with their families by eliminating the minimum standards of custody for children. That is not a humane nor acceptable “solution” for children and families fleeing violence and in search of a safer, better life.

Again, we strongly urge you to VOTE NO on both immigration bills — the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018, or Ryan bill, and the Securing America’s Future Act of 2018, or Goodlatte bill — expected to be considered this week.

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