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.

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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]

[Signatures]
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Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
Member of Congress

Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

Wm. Lacy Clay
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jim Cooper
Member of Congress

Luis Correa
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist
Member of Congress

Joe Crowley
Member of Congress

Emanuel Cleaver
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Susan A. Davis
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

Diana DeGette
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison
Member of Congress
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Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

Nita M. Lowey
Member of Congress

Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Alice L. Hasting
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Carolyn Maloney
Member of Congress

Sean Patrick Maloney
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Stephanie Murphy
Member of Congress

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler
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Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Tom O’Halleran
Member of Congress

Beto O’Rourke
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

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