

September 6, 2017

Senator Richard Durbin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

On behalf of First Focus Campaign for Children, a bipartisan children's advocacy organization dedicated to making children and families the priority in federal budget and policy decisions, I am writing to thank you for your leadership in introducing The DREAM Act of 2017 (S.1615).

As an organization committed to ensuring the welfare and safety of children in the U.S., we applaud your efforts to protect the nearly 800,000 undocumented children and young adults, who were brought to the U.S. at no fault of their own. Undocumented youth who graduate from high school face significant barriers as they transition into adulthood. These barriers include the ability to get a driver's license, secure gainful employment, and access higher education. Reducing these barriers will allow them to increase their contributions to their communities and to contribute to the growth of our nation's economy.

The DREAM Act of 2017 addresses the plight of undocumented youth living in the U.S., many of whom were brought here at a young age, have been educated in American schools, and consider the U.S. their only home. It would allow them to gain conditional legal status and to pursue their educational and employment goals without threat of deportation.

On September 5th of 2017 the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program was rescinded by the Trump Administration. This program currently serves thousands of young immigrant children who are enrolled in school and have only known the U.S. as their home. Without the action of Congress on this legislation, DACA recipients and many undocumented students and graduates who contribute to our country and economy will face an uncertain future.

With children of immigrants being the fastest growing segment of the U.S. child population, it is in our best interest as a country to implement policies that will ensure that all our children have the ability to achieve their full potential. The DREAM Act would help the United States maximize our greatest asset—our children—by providing immigrant students who have grown up here with the opportunity to achieve the American dream and give back to the country they already call home.

We are grateful for your leadership, compassion, and bipartisanship in making children and families a legislative priority, and we look forward to working with you on this and other proposals to improve the well-being of children and youth.

Sincerely,



Bruce Lesley
President