

September 7, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Minority Leader Pelosi:

We urge you to take immediate action and pass legislation that will provide an opportunity for young adults who are subject to the policy directive issued by President Obama on June 2012; the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA), to remain in the United States before the program fully expires on March 5, 2018.

The action President Trump has taken to rescind the DACA program is not an answer to our nation's ongoing need for permanent and comprehensive immigration reform. The nearly 800,000 DACA-recipients, who are currently working in the United States or attending a university or college, should not be penalized for the gridlock in Washington that has blocked real solutions from moving forward. They are hard-working individuals who are contributing to their communities, paying taxes, and in, in many cases, even serving in the U.S. military.

Rescinding DACA will not only put these young people in limbo, it will also harm businesses in our states who have hired, trained and invested in them.

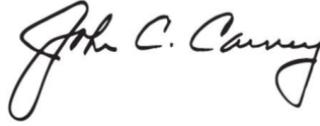
DACA recipients must reapply every two years, and must show that they have not been convicted of a felony, certain significant misdemeanors, or three or more misdemeanors of any kind. They must pass background and fingerprint checks, and pay a fee of \$495. If approved, they are given work permits to be able to sustain themselves and in many cases their families without fear of deportation. They are not violent criminals but instead hard working young people, who were brought to the United States as young children.

We are a nation of laws, but we are also a nation of immigrants, compassion and common sense. We strongly urge you to work together to take immediate action to ensure that these young people can continue to live, work and contribute to the country they have called home for most of their lives.

Sincerely,



Governor Terry McAuliffe
Virginia



Governor John Carney Jr.
Delaware



Governor John Hickenlooper
Colorado



Governor Jay Inslee
Washington



Governor Mark Dayton
Minnesota



Governor Gina Raimondo
Rhode Island



Governor Dannel Malloy
Connecticut



Governor Roy Cooper
North Carolina



Governor Kate Brown
Oregon



Governor David Ige
Hawaii



Governor Steve Bullock
Montana