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May 10, 2018

Member  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Discharge Petition H.Res.774 - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program*

Dear Representative:

The National School Boards Association (NSBA), representing more than 90,000 local school board members, working with and through our state associations, acknowledges your work to address the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program*, which directly impacts our nation's students, educators and school districts. ***Specifically, we urge you to sign the discharge petition filed May 9 that would facilitate swift consideration of multiple bills with provisions to address the status of DACA.***

As Congress is exploring legislative solutions for overall immigration reform, we urge you to extend the DACA program through a measure that will provide the immediate support for continuity and reassurance that students will not be separated from their families and communities; and, that their education will not be jeopardized.

NSBA and several other education organizations asserted in an [amicus brief](#) to *Vidal v. Nielsen* that a preliminary injunction was necessary to prevent irreparable harm to the vital interests of DACA recipients and their education communities. Likewise, a sound legislative solution is greatly needed. Thousands of our nation's students, educators, school districts, families, businesses and industry, and communities are affected each day without a solution to DACA. Rescinding DACA will harm our schools and communities, as well as our national economy. As the nation's largest collective employer, our school districts are impacted as both education service providers and employers. For example, in California's school districts alone, more than 5,000 educators are affected.

As noted in the amicus brief, the harm caused by the rescission of DACA will not be borne by its recipients alone. As the loss of DACA disrupts our classrooms and destabilizes school districts, its effects will reverberate throughout communities. As the status of educators with DACA expires on different dates throughout the school year, teachers and staff will abruptly vanish from classrooms to the distress of their students and to the measurable detriment of educational outcomes. The loss of these DACA educators will worsen already-serious teacher shortages, deprive students of mentors and role models, and deplete the teaching corps of much-needed diversity.

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As a matter of national priority, NSBA urges you to champion a viable solution for DACA that supports our public schools in providing equitable access to ensure that all students enrolled have the knowledge and skills to succeed as contributing members of a rapidly changing global society. Specifically, NSBA urges Congress to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to authorize the cancellation of removal, resolve immigration status, and work toward United States citizenship of undocumented students who are long-term United States residents.

DACA has enabled almost 800,000 eligible young adults to attend school, establish careers and contribute to America's communities and economy without the constant threat of deportation. We urge your immediate action to address this priority that will help stabilize the delivery of educational services and strengthen student achievement.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gentzel  
Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer