



December 18, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Mr. Speaker:

As veterans, we are writing to ask you to support a permanent, legislative solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients before the holiday recess. A DACA-fix would allow nearly 690,000 Dreamers brought to the U.S. as children to continue to contribute to our communities, economy and the military. More than 97 percent of these young men and women are currently in school or in the workforce, and nearly 900 have already enlisted in our armed forces.

Today, more than ever, we need a permanent solution for DACA recipients before the end of the year to help expand our military's recruitment pool. The Center for Naval Analyses estimated in 2015 that only 13 percent of 17- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. are qualified and available to serve in the military. Providing a permanent, legislative solution for DACA recipients and other Dreamers would expand the military's recruitment pool and, according to one estimate, put the number of potential enlistees upon passage of legislation at up to 70,000 individuals. A solution for DACA recipients would play a vital role in the military's ability to sustain an all-volunteer force.

We also encourage Congress to support a solution before the end of the year because it strengthens our military and national security. DACA recipients and other Dreamer enlistees have critical skills helpful to our military. For example, DACA recipients possess language skills and cultural competencies that support our global strategic interests. They also have critical medical skills and training. To date, over 900 DACA recipients have enlisted in the Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI) recruitment program because of their valuable language and medical skills. Without legislation, about 350 of these DACA recipients in the MAVNI program may lose their ability to join the military if their DACA protections expire while they continue to wait for background checks to be completed. Thousands more are expected to volunteer and enlist once legislation is passed. The outlook of our military readiness and national security in 2018 would both greatly benefit from these new recruits.

Our years of service in defense of this country also compel us to support a permanent, legislative solution for DACA recipients who wish to serve America. There are DACA recipients serving as leaders in Junior ROTC programs across the country. There are many young Dreamers who are



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hoping to one day have the opportunity to enlist in the U.S. military. These individuals would make outstanding soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen. We must give these young people the opportunity to fully contribute to our nation and military.

With every day that passes, over 120 DACA recipients lose their protection from deportation, ability to work legally in the U.S. and, in some cases the ability to enlist in our military. We ask Congress to pass a permanent, legislative solution that allows young undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children the ability to make America their permanent home.

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen.	Tony Taguba	Army	Arlington, VA
Col.	Eric Rojo	Army	Mexico City, Mexico
LTC(R)	Joseph Kopser	Army	Austin, TX
Spc.	Hector Barajas	Army	Compton, CA
Private	Erick Ruiz	Army	Newark, NJ
SGT	Travis P Weiner	Army	Boulder, CO
Major USA (Ret.)	Raymond Celaya	Army	Monument, CO
State Commander	Luis A. Vazquez-Contes	Army	Pueblo, CO
Specialist	Naveed Shah	Army	Fairfax, VA
CWO3	Jerry Godwin	Army	Rockville, MD
Specialist	Doroteo Garcia	Army	Highlands Ranch, CO
Mr.	Howard Hernandez	Army	Montebello, CA
LTC (Ret.)	Margaret D. Stock	Army	Anchorage, AK
SPC	Mykola Dogadailo	Army	Salt Lake City, UT
US Army Ret.	Monica A Valdiviez-Wiley	Army	Arlington VA
Major	Wendy Stiver	Army	Dayton, OH
Specialist	Rahul Gautam	Army	Boston, MA



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Mr.	Mingkit Lee	Army	Portland, OR
PFC	Atila De Souza	Army	Port Reading, NJ
SPC	James Lee	Army	Philadelphia, PA
PFC	Yasir Perwaiz	Army	Saint Paul, MN
Dr.	Naomi Verdugo	Army civilian (Ret.)	Arlington, VA
Mr.	Robert N. Hood	Army	Universal City, TX
Mr.	Russell J. Lopez	Army	Wheat Ridge, CO
SPC	Sonia Figueroa	CA Army National Guard	Los Angeles, CA
Cpt.	George Autobee	Marine Corps and Army Reserves	Colorado City, CO
Rear Adm.	Jim Partington	Navy	Lincoln, NE
GM1	Mario Perales	Navy	Fort Stockton, TX
Commander AGIF Mile High Chapter	Joe Davalos	Navy	Denver, CO
Mr.	Jose Aguirre	Navy	Hollister, CA
Mr.	Herbert Soto	Navy	Pueblo, CO
Mr.	Edward Markowitz	Navy	Lakewood, CO
Lt. j.g.	Dane Beveridge	Navy	Pasadena, CA
MCPO	Katalina Rinker	Navy	Artesia, NM
Master Sergeant (Retired)	Angel Zuniga	USAF	Corpus Christi, TX



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SrA	Gabrielle Hurlock	USAF	Middletown, CT
Captain	Graciela Tiscareño-Sato	USAF	Hayward, CA
Sgt.	Rogelio Ledesma	USAF	San Antonio, TX
SSgt	Jordan Morales	USAF	Lexington, SC
Mr.	Francisco G. Hinojosa	USAF	Oklahoma City, OK
Veteran	Landon Marchant	USAF	Williamstown, MA
Mr.	Romaldo Guillen	USAF	Austin, TX
Cpl.	Matthew Lester	USMC	Astoria, NY
SGT	Rodrigo Garcia	USMC	Westmont, IL
Cpl.	Raoul Lowery-Contreras	USMC	Vista, CA
Marine	Erasmus Apodaca	USMC	Calexico, CA
Major	Mark Pinto	USMC	Aloha, OR
GySgt	Emir Hadzic	USMC	St. Louis, MO
Mr.	Jose G. Trujillo	USMC	Denver, CO
Mr.	Travis Barrett	USMC	North Brunswick Township, NJ
Corporal	David Jiron	USMC	Pueblo, CO
SSGT	Richard Amador	USMC	Spring, TX
CPL	Eliot Yasumura	USMC	Los Angeles, CA
PFC	Monika McKemie	USMC	Plano, TX

*\*These signatories signed this letter in their individual capacity, and not as representatives of any organization\**