

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2016

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President:

We write to reiterate and clarify our time sensitive request that you grant Presidential pardons to those who your Administration has vetted and granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

In response to a recent congressional letter asking you to pardon beneficiaries of the DACA program, the White House stated "the clemency power could not give legal status to any undocumented individual. As we have repeatedly said for years, only Congress can create legal status for undocumented individuals." Your Director of the Domestic Policy Council has also made similar remarks.

First, as U.S. Congressmen and women, we are well aware that it is within our power and not yours to pass laws that establish pathways to legal status for undocumented immigrants. In fact, we have worked tirelessly throughout your Administration and previous Administrations to achieve this aim. It remains a first and foremost goal for us as legislators.

Second, we reiterate our request for you to use your Constitutional authority to provide pardons for civil immigration violations. Just as Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution delegates to Congress the authority to establish a "uniform Rule of Naturalization," Article II, Section 2 delegates sole authority to the President to grant "Pardons for Offences against the United States." The Constitution specifically does not limit the pardon power to criminal offenses. We ask for the narrow reprieve of a retroactive and prospective pardon of categorical civil immigration violations for a unique group of young immigrants who have placed their trust in both you as their President and us as their lawmakers. To be clear we are not asking you to "create legal status."

We believe that this action is critical, although it does not create legal status, because for many DREAMers it could clear a path to a legal status that already exists under current law. Providing protection and stability for immigrants is a shared goal, especially at a time when fear and uncertainty in our communities is at an all-time high. Therefore, we urge you to reconsider and exercise your Constitutional authority to provide pardons to young people who are American in every way but on paper.

Sincerely,


Hon. Zoe Lofgren


Hon. Luis V. Gutierrez


Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard



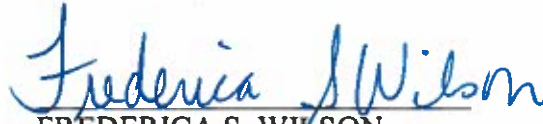
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress



ERIC SWALWELL
Member of Congress



FREDERICA S. WILSON
Member of Congress



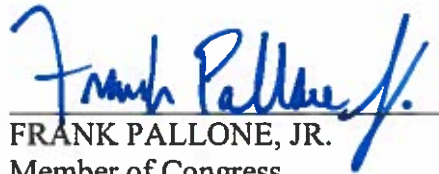
JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
Member of Congress



MIKE THOMPSON
Member of Congress



FRANK PALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress



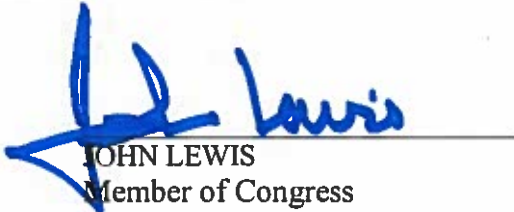
MARK POCAN
Member of Congress



SUZAN K. DELBENE
Member of Congress



MARK DESAULNIER
Member of Congress



JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress



DINA TITUS
Member of Congress



JOHN A. YARMUTH
Member of Congress



MARC A. VEASEY
Member of Congress

Ted W. Lieu

TED W. LIEU
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.

DONALD S. BEYER JR.
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela

FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

Suzanne Bonamici

SUZANNE BONAMICI
Member of Congress

Norma J. Torres

NORMA J. TORRES
Member of Congress

Earl Blumenauer

EARL BLUMENAUER
Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz

DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego

RUBEN GALLEGO
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar

PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress

Grace Meng

GRACE MENG
Member of Congress

Beto O'Rourke

BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress

Alan Grayson

ALAN GRAYSON
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano

MICHAEL E. CAPUANO
Member of Congress

Jared Polis

JARED POLIS
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley

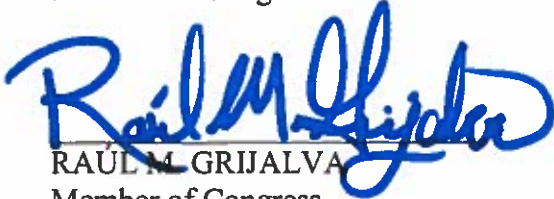
JOSEPH CROWLEY
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN M. RICE
Member of Congress



TONY CARDENAS
Member of Congress



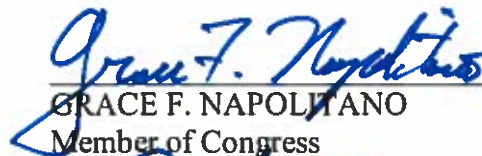
RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



HAKEEM S. JEFFRIES
Member of Congress



GRACE F. NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



MICHAEL M. HONDA
Member of Congress



DAVID E. PRICE
Member of Congress



JERROLD NADLER
Member of Congress



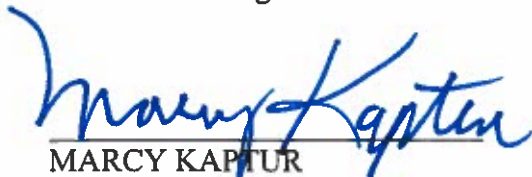
RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress




ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
Member of Congress



DANNY K. DAVIS
Member of Congress



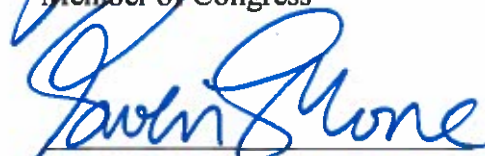
MARCY KAPTUR
Member of Congress



JOSE E. SERRANO
Member of Congress



DAVID N. CICILLINE
Member of Congress



GWEN MOORE
Member of Congress



SHEILA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



RUBÉN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress



KEITH ELLISON
Member of Congress



BARBARA LEE
Member of Congress



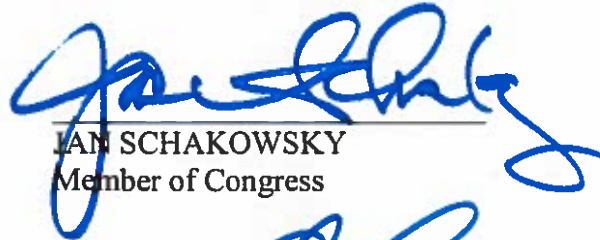
NYDIA M. VELAZQUEZ
Member of Congress



PETER WELCH
Member of Congress



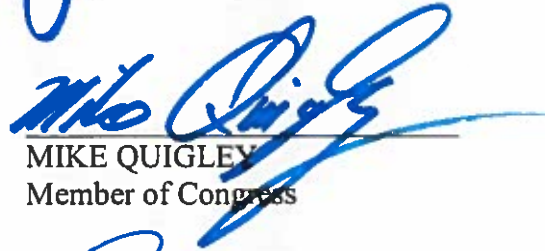
ADAM B. SCHIFF
Member of Congress



JAN SCHAKOWSKY
Member of Congress



JUDY CHU
Member of Congress



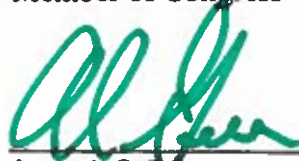
MIKE QUIGLEY
Member of Congress



GENE GREEN
Member of Congress



BRAD SHERMAN
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress