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H I S P A N I C  
A S S O C I A T I O N  
O F C O L L E G E S &  
U N I V E R S I T I E S

August 2, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
United States House of Representatives  
2206 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
United States House of Representatives  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Graham & Durbin and Representatives Ros-Lehtinen & Roybal-Allard:

On behalf of the undersigned national higher education and immigration organizations, we thank you for your leadership in introducing the “*Dream Act of 2017*” (S. 1617 & H.R. 3440). We are encouraged that this important legislation was reintroduced in a bipartisan manner and hope that Congress works to pass it as soon as possible.

The Dream Act is a strong bipartisan legislative solution that would allow young immigrants, brought to this country as children, to continue living their American Dream by pursuing higher education, serving in the military, or being lawfully employed for three years and eventually earning a path to citizenship. Under current law, they live in fear of deportation and cannot fully realize their potential and utilize their talents in service to the communities, cities, and country they call home. As many as 1.8 million such undocumented immigrants in this country would benefit from the enactment of the Dream Act, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

The legislation, since its initial introduction in 2001, has enjoyed broad support across our nation. According to a recent *Morning Consult* and *Politico* poll, 78 percent of American voters (including 73 percent of those who voted for President Donald Trump) support giving DREAMers the chance to stay permanently in America.

The nation as a whole would benefit from the education and employment of regularized DREAMers. As such, they would be able to make their full contribution as tax-payers, professionals, skilled workers, and leaders in areas of critical importance to the nation’s economy and security. To address current workforce challenges, the U.S. needs to draw on the skills and energy of all immigrants, particularly of those who have demonstrated the commitment and determination to excel.

Thank you again for your support of DREAMers and your continued leadership. We stand ready to assist you and your colleagues in getting the Dream Act passed by Congress.

Sincerely,

Antonio R. Flores  
President & CEO

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
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The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard

Additional organizations signing on to this letter:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)  
American Association of University Professors (AAUP)  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)  
American College Personnel Association (ACPA)  
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
American GI Forum  
American School Counselor Association  
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"  
Association of American Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU)  
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities:  
Center for Law and Social Policy  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)  
Council of Graduate Schools (CGS)  
EDUCAUSE  
Hispanic Federation  
Inter-University Program for Latino Research  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)  
Mi Familia Vota  
NAFSA: Association of International Educators  
National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)  
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Institute for Latino Policy (NiLP)  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latina/o Psychological Association  
SER Jobs for Progress National Inc.  
UnidosUS (formerly NCLR)  
Voto Latino