

State of  
Washington  
House of  
Representatives



September 21, 2017

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

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

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. Leader:

We, the undersigned Washington State Representatives, ask that you take immediate action to ensure that the nearly 18,000 young people in Washington who are beneficiaries of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program are able to remain in our state and continue contributing to our economy.

The president's decision to rescind the DACA program is already causing harm and uncertainty to the young people directly affected and to our state as a whole. College students are concerned they will not be able to graduate; recent graduates just starting their careers are not sure what the future holds; and young people who have been in this country for much of their lives are worried about being deported to countries that are completely unfamiliar to them.

We stand with these "Dreamers," who arrived in this country as children and for whom the United States is the only home they know. Their roots are here in our communities where they attend school, hold legal employment in agriculture, skilled labor, and professional positions in our tight labor market, as well as serve honorably in our military.

Instead of ripping families apart and denying young people the opportunity to participate fully in the American Dream, we should be working on ways to fully integrate DACA recipients into our society with the proper legal protections. That's why the Washington State Legislature, on a strong bipartisan basis, passed the Washington DREAM Act in 2014. This landmark legislation paved the way to higher education for young people aspiring to a college education but unable to afford it. Over 1800 students received state financial aid in 2016-17 thanks to the Washington DREAM Act.

We urge Congress to codify DACA, freeze deportations of DACA recipients during this process, and overhaul our nation's broken immigration system. These specific actions will give those who have grown up in our country some stability while Congress carefully considers long-term legislative solutions.

Sincerely,



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John Lovick  
Representative, 44<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Strom Peterson  
Representative, 21<sup>st</sup> Legislative District



Jeff Morris  
Representative, 40<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



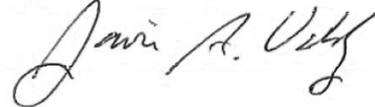
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June Robinson  
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Kristine Reeves  
Representative, 30<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Javier Valdez  
Representative, 46<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



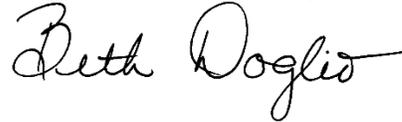
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Derek Stanford  
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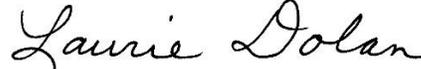
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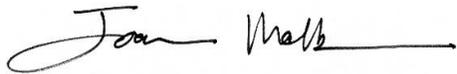
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Ruth Kagi  
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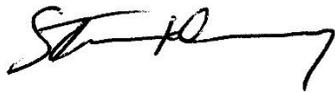
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Mike Sells  
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Steve Kirby  
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Gael Tarleton  
Representative, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Noel Frame  
Representative, 36<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Roger Goodman  
Representative, 45<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



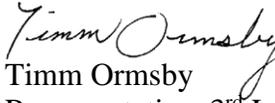
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Jake Fey  
Representative, 27<sup>th</sup> Legislative District



Vandana Slatter  
Representative, 48<sup>th</sup> Legislative District

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Jaime Herrera Beutler, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Dan Newhouse, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Cathy McCorris Rodgers, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Derek Kilmer, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Pramila Jayapal, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable David Reichert, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Denny Heck, U.S. House of Representatives