



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0905

September 25, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Duke
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke:

We are writing to request that you extend the current October 5, 2017 deadline for individuals to submit appropriate applications to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for renewals under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program.

On September 5, 2017, the Administration announced the end of the current DACA program. According to that announcement, the government will continue to accept DACA renewal applications until October 5, 2017, for individuals whose current DACA status expires by March 5, 2018.

As you know, in the last month, several major hurricanes made landfall in the United States. Hurricanes Harvey and Irma devastated Texas and Florida. Hurricane Maria recently crippled Puerto Rico, leaving the entire island without electricity. The hurricanes took lives, flooded communities, ruined homes and businesses, and displaced thousands. These major hurricanes significantly disrupted day to day living and operations in these states and territories. Volunteers from across the country have poured in to help with relief efforts, and millions of Americans have family and friends living in the affected areas. According to the latest data from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), tens of thousands of DACA recipients live in areas impacted by the storms, and DACA recipients served as first responders in the rescue and recovery efforts. Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico are still working to recover and will be for some time.

In particular in light of these events, it would be appropriate for the government to extend the October 5, 2017 deadline nationwide to allow individuals adequate time to meet the government's recent request. An extension of the deadline would provide DACA recipients more time to collect the \$495 application fee and gather the necessary documents to accurately complete the renewal application. We appreciate that the government has extended other filing deadlines due to the storms.

Thank you for your timely consideration of this request, as we continue to work on enshrining permanent protections for Dreamers into law.

Sincerely,

Bill Nelson

Richard Blumenthal

Robert Menendez

Dick Durbin

Richard J. Durbin

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein

Chris Van Hollen

Chris Van Hollen

Kirsten Gillibrand

Kirsten Gillibrand

Catherine Cortez Masto

Catherine Cortez Masto

Patrick Leahy

Patrick Leahy

Jeanne Shaheen

Jeanne Shaheen

Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher S. Murphy

Christopher A. Coons

Christopher A. Coons

Cory A. Booker

Cory A. Booker

Bernard Sanders

Bernard Sanders

Elizabeth Warren

Elizabeth Warren

Maria Cantwell

Maria Cantwell

Margaret Wood Hassan

Margaret Wood Hassan

Michael F. Bennet

Michael F. Bennet

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Jeffrey A. Merkley

Tammy Baldwin

Tammy Baldwin

Thomas R. Carper


Thomas R. Carper

Al Franken

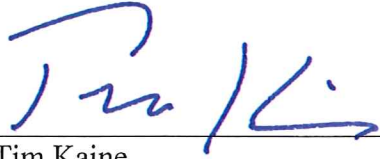
Al Franken



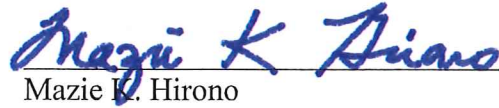
Kamala D. Harris



Brian Schatz



Tim Kaine



Mazie Hirono



Jack Reed



Sheldon Whitehouse



Robert P. Casey, Jr.



Sherrod Brown



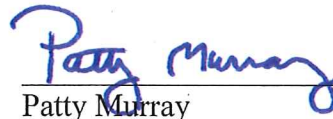
Ron Wyden



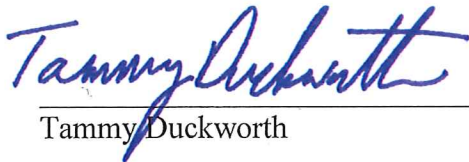
Tom Udall



Martin Heinrich



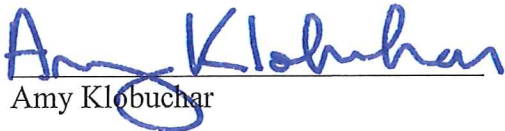
Patty Murray



Tammy Duckworth



Charles E. Schumer



Amy Klobuchar

cc: Acting Director James McCament
Attorney General Jeff Sessions