

April 13, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane, S.W.
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chad F. Wolf,

We write on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients who call our cities and this country their home. As we face an unprecedented health crisis, we want to ensure that DACA recipients are supported during these difficult times. We respectfully request that you protect the nearly 700,000 DACA recipients awaiting a decision from the Supreme Court on the future of the program by automatically renewing all DACA work permits expiring in 2020. As our nation fights the COVID-19 pandemic, automatically renewing the DACA employment authorization documents that expire this year will ensure that DACA recipients continue to seek medical care, as needed, without fear and, for those who are also healthcare providers and essential workers, that they remain in the workforce.

In the midst of this pandemic, the interruption in deferred action from removal and employment eligibility for DACA recipients may create uncertainty and discourage some from getting tested and seeking medical attention during COVID-19. As stated by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is critical that any individual who has been exposed to COVID-19 and develops symptoms related to the virus, calls their healthcare provider for medical advice. It is extremely dangerous for our country to have DACA recipients, and other immigrant communities, be afraid to seek medical care during this time because it jeopardizes entire communities and undermines our efforts to address this public health crisis.

Additionally, there are an estimated 27,000¹ DACA recipients across the U.S. who work in healthcare careers. They are part of the social and economic fabric of our communities and have answered the call for duty and are in the frontlines fighting COVID-19. DACA recipients are healthcare workers, grocery store workers, child care providers, business owners, restaurant workers, nonprofits leaders, and they are providing essential services during this public health crisis. An expired work permit will prevent these essential workers from providing critical services as we face this virus.

¹<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/05/474177/know-daca-recipients-united-states/>

During these difficult times, our nation is not prepared for a shortage of healthcare professionals and essential workers.

Due to the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic can have on the immediate wellbeing and future of DACA recipients and their communities, we respectfully urge you to maintain the DACA program and automatically renew the DACA employment authorization documents that expire this year to keep everyone safe.

Sincerely,

Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles, CA
Mayor Jorge Elorza, City of Providence, RI
Mayor John Giles, City of Mesa, AZ
Mayor Bill de Blasio, City of New York, NY
Mayor Jenny Durkan, City of Seattle, WA
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, City of Chicago, IL
Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City of San Diego, CA
Mayor Sylvester Turner, City of Houston, TX
Mayor Mike Duggan, City of Detroit, MI
Mayor Lyda Krewson, City of St. Louis, MO
Mayor Regina Romero, City of Tucson, AZ
Mayor Martin J. Walsh, City of Boston, MA
Mayor Staya Rhodes-Conway, City of Madison, WI
Mayor Kate Gallego, City of Phoenix, AZ
Mayor Michael B. Hancock, City of Denver, CO
Mayor Ted Wheeler, City of Portland, OR
Mayor Erin Mendenhall, City of Salt Lake City, UT
Mayor Steve Adler, City of Austin, TX
Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City of San Antonio, TX
Mayor London Breed, City of San Francisco, CA
Mayor Buddy Dyer, City of Orlando, FL
Mayor Laruen McLean, City of Boise, ID
Mayor Libby Schaff, City of Oakland, CA
Mayor Mike Coffman, City of Aurora, CO
Mayor Darrell Steinberg, City of Sacramento, CA
Mayor Jim Kenney, City of Philadelphia, PA
Mayor Sam Liccardo, City of San Jose, CA
Mayor Victoria Woodards, City of Tacoma, WA
Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter, City of San Leandro, CA
Mayor Vi Lyles, City of Charlotte, NC

Mayor Bill Peduto, City of Pittsburgh, PA
Mayor Michael Tubbs, City of Stockton, CA
Mayor Melvin Carter, City of Minneapolis, MN
Mayor Robert Garcia, City of Long Beach, CA
Mayor Alan Nagy, City of Newark, CA
Mayor Cassie Franklin, City of Everett, WA
Mayor Greg Fischer, City of Louisville, KY
Mayor Daniel Horrigan, City of Akron, OH
Mayor Jacob Frey, City of Minneapolis, MN
Mayor Alan Weber, City of Santa Fe, NM
Mayor Miguel Pulido, City of Santa Ana, CA
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Mayor Tom Barrett, City of Milwaukee, WI
Mayor Kevin McKeown, City of Santa Monica, CA
Mayor Pam Hemminger, City of Chapel Hill, NC
Mayor Brian Delzeit, City of Dodge City, KS
Mayor Riley Rogers, Village of Dolton, IL
Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone, City of Somerville, MA
Mayor Mary Casillas Salas, City of Chula Vista, CA
Mayor Jesse Arreguín, City of Berkeley, CA
Mayor Thomas McNamara, City of Rockford, IL
Mayor Jennifer Gregerson, City of Mukilteo, WA
Mayor Svante L. Myrick, City of Ithaca, NY
Mayor Lydia, Lavelle, City of Carboro, NC

CC:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Minority Leader