

September 12, 2017

Dear Speaker Ryan; Leader Nancy Pelosi; Leader Mitch McConnell; and Leader Charles Schumer:

Diversity is the strength of America's workforce. If we are to remain innovative, adaptive and prosperous, our workforce must include different cultures, perspectives and experiences. With the administration's decision last week to halt the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we are moving counter to our principles as a nation where everyone contributes, where anyone can write their own destiny. We are also devaluing diversity and inclusion as foundational to our heritage and our progress. For these reasons, we urge Congress to move quickly to protect the ability of DACA-eligible individuals to work and study and contribute to society without the threat of deportation.

With more than 39,000 members, ASAE is the largest organization in the world representing the interests of trade and professional associations. Among the services provided by ASAE to its members are education and professional development, credentialing, industry research and advocacy on issues that impact the association and nonprofit communities.

Diversity is undeniably an issue that impacts associations. Associations are designed to bring different people together for a common purpose. Our differences – not our sameness – ensure that we approach and address challenges from all vantage points.

The nearly 800,000 DACA recipients in the U.S. grew up here in America, they are registered with our government, and they are fully integrated into our society – working or going to school, paying taxes and giving back to their communities in many different ways.

In fact, ending DACA would have major ramifications for the nation's economy, according to numerous reports. FWD.us, a pro-immigration reform group co-founded by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, found that 91 percent of DACA recipients are employed. Many of those Dreamers who are not employed are in school. Canceling the program, which shields those individuals from deportation, would mean roughly 30,000 individuals per month would lose their work permits as their DACA status expires. That research follows separate studies by the CATO Institute and the Center for American Progress that estimated the loss of DACA recipients in the workforce would reduce U.S. gross domestic product by anywhere from \$280 to \$460 billion.

There are economic reasons for extending DACA, and there are moral reasons to give young, productive people raised in our country the right to continue to pursue their dreams. We hope Congress will listen to reason and provide Dreamers the legislative solution they deserve.

Please do not hesitate to contact us for further input as Congress considers this important issue before the administration's six-month window on DACA expires. Please contact me or Jim Clarke, senior vice president of public policy, at 202.626.2865 or [jclarke@asaecenter.org](mailto:jclarke@asaecenter.org).

Sincerely,



John H. Graham IV, FASAE, CAE  
President and CEO

CC:

The United States House of Representatives  
The United States Senate