Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned 127 lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) and allied organizations call on Congress to pass a clean Dream Act before the end of this year. Congress has no excuse not to pass the Dream Act of 2017. The bipartisan bill has the support of a majority of Americans,\(^1\) including those who identify as Trump supporters.\(^2\) Congress has a responsibility to address this issue and to be in solidarity with immigrants by passing the Dream Act without harmful provisions such as increased border or interior enforcement as well as any cuts to other immigration categories, such as refugees, diversity visa lottery recipients, and green card holders.

Dreamers are a part of the American family and help make our communities vibrant. Moreover, passing the Dream Act would add a total of $22.7 billion to the United States’ GDP every year; gains that could add up to as much as $1 trillion over the next decade when including the productivity bump that would result from dreamers’ increased educational attainment.\(^3\)

Under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), thousands of LGBTQ people have been able to pursue higher education, improve their economic security, and live securely with their families and in their communities.\(^4\) Additionally, DACA has empowered a number of its recipients to come out as LGBTQ to authentically live their lives. If deported, many LGBTQ people will find themselves in a country where they have little to no legal rights and are more likely to experience anti-LGBTQ violence and possibly death. Nearly 80 countries criminalize same-sex relationships and many without explicit laws remain very dangerous for the LGBTQ community.\(^5\) For example, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights reported

\(^2\)Id. at 202.
that nearly 600 people died from anti-LGBTQ violence in Latin America between January 2013 and March 2014.\(^6\)

Adding increased enforcement provisions to the Dream Act is unacceptable because those measures will further endanger LGBTQ asylum seekers seeking protection. Additionally, they will increase the risk of profiling, detention, and deportation for LGBTQ immigrants in the U.S.\(^7\)

Because the LGBTQ community faces discrimination in many aspects of life (i.e. being fired or not hired, or being refused housing), they face higher incarceration rates than those who are not LGBTQ. Given these forms of discrimination, many LGBTQ people have a higher rate of contact with law enforcement, and are therefore at higher risk of deportation because of 287(g) agreements and policies which encourage local jails to identify and hold immigrants for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.\(^8\)

The President’s decision to end DACA is an attack on immigrant young people and families living in our communities, as well as on our values of fairness, equality, and opportunity. The decision has left many individuals feeling helpless and powerless over their future, and fearing that they may be taken from their families and communities at any moment. For example, the Trevor Project has received multiple contacts from those experiencing suicidal ideation and crisis due to the immigration policies that would return LGBTQ youth to their potentially anti-LGBTQ countries of origin. These calls to national LGBTQ youth suicide prevention services continue to occur as the immigration policies remain uncertain. You have the power to restore to these individuals the hope and opportunity that should be hallmarks of our country.

We call on Congress to be on the right side of history by passing a clean Dream Act before going home for the holidays. The time is now.

Sincerely,

1N10, Inc
AB540 Ally Training Project
ACLU
Advocates for Youth
AF3IRM Los Angeles Chapter
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Alaskans Together For Equality
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
Anti-Defamation League
API Equality-LA


\(^8\) Id.
API Rainbow Parents of PFLAG NYC
APLA Health
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council
Asian Pride Project
Bailey House, Inc.
Bend the Arc Jewish Action
BIENESTAR
Blue Ridge Pride Center, Inc.
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center
California Health Professional Student Alliance
California Physicians Alliance
Cascade AIDS Project
Center for American Progress
Center for Black Equity
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Compass Ventura County
Council for Global Equality
Courage Campaign
Equal Rights Washington
Equality Alabama
Equality Arizona
Equality California
Equality North Carolina
Fair Wisconsin
Familia: Trans Queer Liberation Movement
Family Equality Council
Florida Legal Services, Inc.
Food Empowerment Project
FreeState Justice
Gay Asian Pacific Islander Men of New York (GAPIMNY)
Gay City: Seattle's LGBTQ Center
Gender Rights Maryland
Georgia Equality
GLAAD
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Global Justice Institute
Greater Boston Legal Services
Grindr for Equality
Hispanic Health Network
Howard Brown Health
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center
Human Rights Campaign
Indiana Youth Group
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Collective (IEIYC)
Korean American Rainbow Parents
Korean Resource Center
Lambda Legal
Latino Commission on AIDS
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
LGBT Center of Raleigh
LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland
LGBT Technology Partnership & Institute
Long Beach Immigrant Rights Coalition
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Mazzoni Center
Metropolitan Community Churches
Milwaukee LGBT Community Center
MomsRising
Movement Advancement Project
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Council of Jewish Women
National Health Law Program
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBT Bar Association
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
NEAT - the National Equality Action Team
Newark LGBT Community Center
NMAC
Our Family Coalition
Out Alliance
Out On The Lakeshore
Outlinc - Lincoln Nebraska
OUTMemphis: The LGBTQ Center for the Mid-South
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network - USA
Prevention Access Campaign
Pride Action Tank
Pride at Work
Q Center
Rainbow Pride Alliance
Sacramento LGBT Community Center
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
SF Peninsula People Power
Social Action Committee, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Redwood City
South Bay People Power
Southern California Coalition for Occupational Safety & Health
SparkAction
SunServe
Tacoma Rainbow Center
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition
Thai Community Development Center
The DC Center for the LGBT Community
The GLBT Community Center of Colorado
The Legal Aid Society
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center
The LGBT Center of Greater Reading
The LGBTQ Center of Long Beach
The Montrose Center
The Pride Center at Equality Park
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
The Trevor Project
The Volunteer Lawyers Project of Onondaga County
Triangle Community Center
United We Dream
Unity Fellowship of Christ Church
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Virginia Organizing
Whitman-Walker Health
William Way LGBT Community Center
Wyoming Equality
Youth OUTright WNC, Inc.
Youth Pride, Inc.

Cc: Equality Caucus Co-chairs and Executive Director