January 10, 2018

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), I am writing to urge you, before the current continuing resolution expires on January 19, to pass a permanent solution that protects Dreamers from deportation and provides them a pathway to citizenship. These Dreamers are truly American to the core in every other respect and deserve better treatment. The time for kicking the proverbial can down the road is over. We must ensure that they are protected and free to continue their many valuable contributions to our country.

Polls show that 85 percent of the American public wants to protect DACA recipients. A second-class status that forces them to live and work in the shadows, makes them easy targets for exploitation and also adds downward pressure on wages and working conditions for other American workers. Now is the time to help Dreamers fully integrate into the communities that nurtured them and benefit greatly from their skills.

AFSCME urges Congress to address this critical issue by January 19. We know there is strong bipartisan support to protect Dreamers from deportation and provide a pathway to citizenship. AFSCME also encourages Congress to move quickly to extend temporary protected status and address border security issues in a more appropriate context of comprehensive immigration reform.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey
Director of Federal Government Affairs

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