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Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW), I urge you to pass a clean Dream Act (S 1615/HR 3440) without enforcement provisions or other harmful, anti-immigration proposals to protect young immigrants in our country as soon as possible. The measure, sponsored by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Jeff Flake (R-AZ), and Chuck Schumer (D-NY), and Reps. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL), would provide a long overdue pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth.

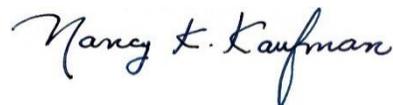
The nearly 800,000 children brought to the US as children are now as American as anyone born here. Known as Dreamers, they are fully integrated into American life, and 98% are working or in school. They are our teachers, soldiers, small business owners, students, family, and friends.

President Trump's cruel decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, pulled the rug out from young people who trusted their government. Every day, Dreamers wake up knowing that in just a few months, they could be separated from their parents, children, and communities. Yet, some policymakers have signaled that they are treating the Dream Act as an opportunity to enact draconian enforcement and anti-family provisions. Dreamers must not be used as a bargaining chip to pay for escalating detention, deportation, and border militarization. Further, protecting Dreamers at the expense of their families is cruel and antithetical to American values.

The National Council of Jewish Women is a grassroots organization of volunteers and advocates who turn progressive ideals into action. Inspired by Jewish values, NCJW strives for social justice by improving the quality of life for women, children, and families and by safeguarding individual rights and freedoms.

As Jews, we know what it's like to be expelled from our homes and seek shelter and opportunity in foreign lands. Our values teach us to welcome the stranger, for once we were strangers in the land of Egypt. Protecting Dreamers is not simply an issue of politics, or economics, but ultimately one of morality. Congress must not wait until deportations begin in March — the time to act is now. I urge you to pass a clean Dream Act to protect these young immigrants without delay.

Sincerely,



Nancy K. Kaufman  
 CEO

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