

January 16, 2018

Maine Senator/Representative
Address

Dear ,

As Maine-based organizations including immigration law experts, advocacy groups, service providers, faith representatives, and immigrant-led organizations, we are writing to urge you to support legislation, such as the Dream Act, that provides a pathway to permanent residency for undocumented children and young adults.

The Dream Act is designed to help young people who entered this country through no fault, or choice, of their own. Deferred Action for Child Arrival (DACA) recipients, or Dreamers, consider the United States their only home. Dreamers are hardworking and determined young people who came to this country as children and who now go to school, work and own businesses, serve in our armed forces, own homes, and have deep roots in our communities.

Without passage of the Dream Act or another piece of clean legislation that provides a pathway to permanent residency, these young people will no longer be able to work and study legally, will lose their jobs, and will be subject to deportation. This would hurt Maine's economy. Economists have reported that we need more immigrant workers to offset Maine's aging population and decreasing workforce. DACA recipients are working for Maine businesses and attending Maine colleges across the state. If they lose legal status, Maine will lose workers, consumers, and tax payers, who are critical to our economy.

Passage of a clean Dream Act will mean at least a hundred young people in Maine, and hundreds of thousands across the United States, will no longer live in fear. The Dream Act provides permanent relief – accordingly, employers and educators will be able to invest in and commit to Dreamers' futures. These young Dreamers will continue to work, go to school, start businesses, and make their homes here in the great state of Maine.

Each day, Dreamers get closer to being deported from the only country they have ever known. It is imperative that Congress passes a clean Dream Act as soon as possible. Dreamers deserve permanent legal status upon which to build their lives here in the United States and Maine.

Contact: Julia Brown, Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
jbrown@ilapmaine.org, 207-780-1593

Signed by:

ACLU of Maine

Aspire For Humanity Initiatives

Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services
Community Financial Literacy
Congregation Bet Ha'am
Family Crisis Services
First Parish Church Portland
Frannie Peabody Center
Friends of Portland Adult Education
Hope Acts
HopeGateWay United Methodist Church
Hope House English Language Program
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project
Institute for Humane Education
Landis Arn & Jaynes, P.A.
Maine Business Immigrant Coalition
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Maine People's Alliance
Maine Small Business Coalition
Maine Women's Lobby
Mainers for Accountable Leadership
Mano en Mano / Hand in Hand
Moral Movement Maine
New England Arab American Organization
Northeast Community of the Sisters of Mercy Of the Americas
Portland Adult Education
Portland At-Large City Councilor, Pious Ali

Preble Street

Sister Patricia Pora, Hispanic Ministry

Solidarity Sundays, Portland Maine chapter

Somali Community Center of Maine

Southern Maine Workers' Center

Welcoming Immigrants Network (WIN)

Welcoming the Stranger