The Honorable U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer  
Hart Senate Office Building, 322  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

July 19, 2021

Dear Leader Chuck Schumer and Leader Mitch McConnell,

As business, education, civic and faith leaders around the country we join together to call on the U.S. Senate to pass the bipartisan Dream Act of 2021, reintroduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), which would provide Dreamers, their families, and the employers who depend on them much-needed certainty following years of legal limbo.

Nearly 80 percent of all voters and more than half of Republican voters believe in protecting these young immigrants, according to a Pew Research Center Poll. Yet the decision issued by Texas federal district court Judge Andrew Hanen threatens the very existence of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which protects Dreamers from deportation. The decision blocks any new initial applications for DACA. While Judge Hanen allowed current DACA recipients to continue filing their renewals, he warned that an order stopping the processing of renewals could be issued in the near future.

This decision throws into further limbo the lives of hundreds of thousands of young Dreamers, and gravely impacts their employers, families, and communities. It makes starkly clear why Congress must seize the opportunity to finally pass the bipartisan Dream Act of 2021, and end this constant rollercoaster of lawsuits and uncertainty. If Congress cannot move forward swiftly in a bipartisan manner, then we call on the Senate and Congress to pursue a roadmap to citizenship through all available mechanisms — including budget reconciliation. Inaction is unacceptable in 2021.

This relief is particularly critical for the 98,000 Dreamers who graduate from high school every year and the 427,000 undocumented students enrolled in institutions of higher education. These students are working diligently to advance themselves, including pursuing careers in health, STEM, and teaching, notwithstanding the uncertainty they live with regarding whether they will be able to complete their education, invest in beginning careers, businesses, and families, and ultimately become citizens.
Dreamers are pillars of our nation's economy and communities - 93 percent of them are employed, they pay close to $10 billion in taxes, and they carry nearly $20 billion in spending power. Nearly 40,000 Dreamers have started businesses and created new jobs for American workers, growing our entrepreneurial spirit. Dreamers are on the frontlines of the pandemic response. Almost 200,000 are essential workers - first responders, restaurant and grocery store workers, childcare providers and almost 30,000 healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses.

We urge the Senate to come together and immediately provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals through the passage of the bipartisan DREAM Act, and if necessary, through budget reconciliation. We understand that no bill is perfect, but we believe this existing bipartisan bill is the best framework to protect Dreamers rather than starting over with new legislation.

Sincerely,

Signatories include the following. For a complete list, click here:

Woody Hunt, Senior Chairman, Hunt Companies, and Co-Chair of the American Business Immigration Coalition

John Rowe, Chairman Emeritus, Exelon Corporation, and Co-Chair of the American Business Immigration Coalition

Mike Fernandez, Chairman and CEO, MBF Healthcare Partners, and Co-Chair of the American Business Immigration Coalition

Louis Caldera, Co-Founder, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, Co-Chair, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Steering Committee

Nancy Cantor, Chancellor, Rutgers University – Newark; Co-Chair, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Steering Committee

Elsa M. Núñez, President, Eastern CT State University, Co-Chair, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Steering Committee

Alan W. Cramb, President, Illinois Institute of Technology

Sam Scott, Chairman and CEO, Ingredion Incorporated - Retired
Chris Wallace, Texas

Craig Duchossois, Chairman, the Duchossois Group

Bob Page, Chairman and CEO, Replacements, Ltd.

Tony Allen, President, Delaware State University

Norman Braman, Chairman and CEO, Braman Motor Company

Noelle Cockett, President, Utah State University

Lester Crown, Henry Crown and Company Chairman and CEO

Michael Drake, President, University of California System

José Luis Cruz, President, Northern Arizona University

Joseph I. Castro, Chancellor, The California State University

Mark Erickson, President, Northampton Community College

Carole Segal, Co-Founder, Crate and Barrel; Chairwoman, Segal Family Foundation

Ron Gidwitz, National Finance Co-Chair, National Republican Senate Committee, United States Ambassador to the European Union and Belgium under President Donald Trump,

Helene Curtis Industries President and CEO (retired)

Jorge Perez, Chairman and CEO Related Companies

John J. DeGioia, President, Georgetown University

Christopher Eisgruber, President, Princeton University

Lawrence Bacow, President, Harvard University

Michael Crow, President, Arizona State University

Gregory Fenves, President, Emory University
Vincent Price, President, Duke University

Andrew Hamilton, President, New York University

Martha E. Pollack, President, Cornell University

Lee C. Bollinger, President, Columbia University in the City of New York

Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President, Stanford University

Msgr. Stuart Swetland, President, Donnelly College

Bill Lucia, Chairman and CEO of HMS (Retired)

Glenn Hamer, President and CEO, Texas Association of Business

Carmen Twillie Ambar, President, Oberlin College

Irma Becerra, President, Marymount University

Carrie Besnette-Hauser, President & CEO, Colorado Mountain College

Nicholas Ladany, President, Oglethorpe University

John Fry, President, Drexel University

Montserrat Fuentes, President, St. Edwards University

Susan Wente, President, Wake Forest University

Julio Frenk, President, University of Miami

David Leebron, President, Rice University

Taylor Eighmy, President, University of Texas at San Antonio

Heather Wilson, President, The University of Texas at El Paso

Neal Smatresk, President, University of North Texas

Farnam Jahanian, President, Carnegie Mellon University
Jay Perman, Chancellor, University System of Maryland

Judy Miner, Chancellor, Foothill-De Anza Community College

Jane Fernandes, Former President, Guilford College

G. Gabrielle Starr, President, Pomona College

Josh Hoyt, Democracy Partners, NPNA Retired Executive Director

Lori S. White, President, DePauw University

Adam Weinberg, President, Denison University

Jonathan Brand, President, Cornell College

Jenifer Ward, President, Luther College

Sylvia M. Burwell, President, American University

Carol Quillen, President, Davidson College

Daniel Lugo, President, Queens University of Charlotte

Kim Cassidy, President, Bryn Mawr College

Valerie Smith, President, Smith College

Wendy Raymond, President, Haverford College

Suzanne M. Rivera, President, Macalester College

Christine M. Riordan, President, Adelphi University

Stuart Rabinowitz, President Hofstra University

Raul Raymundo, CEO, The Resurrection Project

Hugh McColl, Bank of America, Chairman and CEO - Retired

Deneece Huftalin, President, Salt Lake Community College
Al Cardenas, Florida Republican Party former Chairman, Squire Patton Boggs Partner

Bart Patterson, President, Nevada State College

Christina Paxson, President, Brown University

Michelle Hooper, Board of Directors, United Airlines

Bob Worsley, Entrepreneur, Author and Retired AZ GOP State Senator, NZ Legacy, LLC;

ZenniHome, LLC; NovoPower, LLC

Mayor Francis Suarez, City of Miami

Eduardo Padrón, President Emeritus, Miami Dade College

David Barber, Barber Foods and MeBIC Chair

Don Graham, Chairman, TheDream.US; Chairman, Graham Holdings

Kim Wilcox, Chancellor, U.C. Riverside

Biddy Martin, President, Amherst College

Patricia McGuire, President, Trinity Washington University

Dwight A. McBride, President, The New School

Maurie McInnis, President, Stony Brook University

President Joseph McShane SJ, President, Fordham University

Anthony Monaco, President, Tufts University

Christopher Molloy, Chancellor, Rutgers University - New Brunswick

Leocadia I. Zak, President, Agnes Scott College

Frank Wu, President, Queens College

David Wippman, President, Hamilton College
Matthew A. Love, President & CEO, Nicklaus Children’s Health System

Mario Murgado, CEO Murgado Automotive Group

Martin Eakes, Self Help Federal Credit Union President and CEO

Jose Luis Prado, President and CEO, Quaker Oats, a division of Pepsico - retired

Pilar Guzman, CEO Half Moon Empanadas

Mike Kaplan, President and CEO, Aspen Snowmass

Ray Shrout, Affinity Hospice CEO, Alabama

Vicki Kroviak, Acorn Health CEO

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Tony Argiz, CEO Morrison Brown Argiz Farrah CPAs

Willie Stanfield, Senior executive, Marathon Oil - retired

Dennis Archer, former Mayor of Detroit
Kay Rawlins, Club Founder & SVP of Community Relations, President, Orlando City Foundation

Anthony Anderson, Vice Chair, Ernst and Young - Retired

Brian E. Keeley, President and CEO of Baptist Health South Florida

Glenn Tilton, Board of Directors Abbott Laboratories, United Airlines Chairman and CEO - retired