



Kentucky Chamber

Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

June 13, 2018

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Kentucky's business community, we are calling on our Congressional delegation to come up with a legislative solution to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

As part of our federal priorities for many years, the Kentucky Chamber encourages Congress to pursue immigration reform, including a path for legal status for the estimated 11 million undocumented people in the United States, allowing them to emerge from the shadows and create a stable workforce. In light of the administration's decision regarding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the Kentucky Chamber urges Congress to find a legislative solution to this issue.

In Kentucky alone, the positive economic impact of DACA-eligible recipients can be easily seen:

- There are as many as 5,459 DACA-eligible recipients in the state.
- Despite the rhetoric claiming undocumented youths are a drain on the Kentucky economy, 90.5 percent of the DACA-eligible population who are at least 16 years old are employed.
- Kentucky's DACA-eligible population earns almost \$70.4 million in total income annually.
- Kentucky's DACA-eligible population contributes more than \$10 million in total taxes annually, \$6.1 million of which goes to state and local tax revenue.

At large, immigrants have substantial impact on the local economy:

- In Kentucky, nearly 152,000 residents are immigrants.
- Over 10,600 immigrants are entrepreneurs, employing more than 35,000 at the immigrant-owned firms in the state.
- In 2016, Kentucky immigrants held \$2.7 billion in spending power.
- Immigrants in Kentucky pay \$969 million in taxes every year.

We are also aware that there is the potential to pass legislation that would dramatically reduce the number of legal immigrants into the United States. We strongly oppose such a measure as it would prove devastating to our economy.

The Chamber stands ready to work with you on a bipartisan solution to protect the DACA recipients and toward comprehensive immigration reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ashli Watts". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter of each word being capitalized and larger than the others.

Ashli Watts
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs