



Kentucky Chamber

Uniting Business. Advancing Kentucky.

January 8, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

On behalf of Kentucky's business community, we are calling on our Congressional delegation to come up with a legislative solution to the immigration issue before the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program protections are phased out on March 5, 2018.

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 the 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.

The Chamber stands ready to work with you on a bipartisan solution to protect the DACA recipients before time runs out on March 5, 2018.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Adkisson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dave Adkisson
President & CEO