

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

In light of federal court injunctions that have upheld the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we request that the Department of Homeland Security once again accept and approve advance parole requests from DACA recipients.

As you know, DACA recipients have used advance parole to travel outside the United States in the case of family emergencies, as well as for educational programs.

Student DACA recipients from California and across the country have participated in the California-Mexico Studies Center (CSMC) Dreamers' Study Abroad program, which originated at California State University, Long Beach. This first-of-its-kind program helps build ties between institutions of higher education in both countries and immerses students in Mexican culture.

For over a year, the rejection of advance parole applications from DACA recipients has halted this important program. Even more troubling, the Department's policy has barred DACA recipients from traveling to visit family in a time of need, including the death of a close relative.

While the court injunctions have allowed DACA recipients to apply for renewal of their status, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will not accept and approve advance parole requests from these individuals.

We firmly believe that USCIS should accept these requests, and urge you to restore advance parole for DACA recipients for humanitarian, labor, and educational purposes as provided under the June 2012 DACA Memorandum.

Thank you for your attention, and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGAN
Member of Congress

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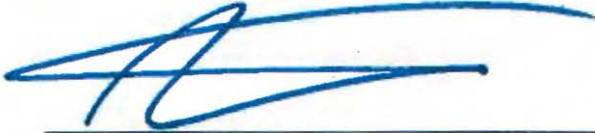

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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

January 29, 2019

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lowenthal:

Thank you for your December 11, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

As you noted, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has discontinued approving applications for an advance parole document on the basis of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). Due to pending litigation regarding the Department's decision to rescind the DACA policy, we are unable to comment further on the matter at this time.

Thank you again for your letter. The co-signers of your letter will receive separate, identical responses. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 272-1940.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LFC", written in a cursive style.

L. Francis Cissna
Director