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February 26, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Office of the Speaker
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
United States Senate
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
Minority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senate and House Leaders,

On behalf of the League of California Cities®, I write to share this resolution adopted by the League's board of directors at its meeting on February 23, 2018, which supports the passage of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) "Dream Act" legislation, as part of comprehensive immigration reform or as a stand-alone bill, that would give young teens and adults who have grown up in the United States, are enrolled in high school, or completed a high school degree or GED equivalent, and have no serious criminal convictions, the means to remain in the country without fear of removal.

This is an important issue for California given that the program affects an estimated 222,795 out of 800,000 young undocumented California immigrants, referred to as "Dreamers."

The resolution further urges the President of the United States to stand by those Dreamers, who were brought as children and only know the United States to be their country, and to also take affirmative steps toward development of a bipartisan and more effective version of DACA, which includes a pathway to citizenship.

These young individuals make many positive contributions to our economy. The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy has reported that undocumented immigrants composed of Dreamers and their families, in California paid \$2.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2010, including \$1.8 billion in sales taxes, \$152.1 million in state income taxes, and \$302.8 million in property taxes.

Immigration is the responsibility of the federal government, yet the inability of Congress for decades to enact comprehensive immigration reform policies has left states and localities on their own to respond to immigration-related issues that have many human, economic and societal impacts. Piecemeal proposals on this sensitive issue, however, do not work and can have harmful and divisive impacts and create fear and uncertainty in our communities.

The League has consistently advocated, in conjunction with the National League of Cities, for Congress to enact a comprehensive approach to the immigration issue, one that not only addresses equitable enforcement, but also incorporates thoughtful and sensitive solutions to the realities associated with millions of families, students and workers living in California and throughout the country.

For these reasons, the League urges Congress and the President to demonstrate leadership and take expedited action to end the needless uncertainty for these young DACA recipients and restore confidence that our federal government can address such sensitive policy issues in a responsible, comprehensive and bipartisan fashion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard A. Garbarino".

Rich Garbarino
President, League of California Cities
Council Member, South San Francisco

cc: Members of the California Congressional Delegation

A RESOLUTION OF THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES RELATIVE TO THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM.

Adopted by the League of California Cities Board of Directors, February 23, 2018

WHEREAS, The program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA, was created through an executive order signed by President Barack Obama in August 2012; and

WHEREAS, Many immigrant parents bring their family to the United States to provide them with greater opportunities for access to the “American Dream”; and

WHEREAS, the federal government’s DACA program has given work permits and deportation relief to nearly 790,000 young undocumented immigrants, referred to as “Dreamers”; and

WHEREAS, DACA gives the Dreamers who came to the United States before the age of 16 a chance to stay in the United States to study or work, provided that they meet certain conditions, some of which include being enrolled in high school, having a high school degree, or GED equivalent, and no serious criminal convictions; and

WHEREAS, Those approved for the program are given a work permit and protection from deportation for two years, with renewal benefits; and

WHEREAS, California has the highest number of DACA recipients at 222,795 out of an estimated 800,000; and

WHEREAS, The immigrant population is very diverse, including peoples from a range of backgrounds and ethnicities. In 2015, 47 percent of immigrants reported their race as White, 27 percent as Asian, 9 percent as Black, and 15 percent as some other race; and

WHEREAS, Among the top 15 countries of origin for Dreamers, a broad range of countries are represented, including Mexico, China, India, Canada, and Haiti; and

WHEREAS, The Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy has reported that undocumented immigrants, composed of Dreamers and their families, in California paid \$2.2 billion in state and local taxes in 2010, including \$1.8 billion in sales taxes, \$152.1 million in state income taxes, and \$302.8 million in property taxes; and

WHEREAS, DACA is popular with the public and enjoys the support of employers, educators, community leaders, and elected officials from both parties. According to a Morning Consult and Politico poll in April 2017, 78 percent of American voters support giving Dreamers the chance to stay permanently in America; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities has consistently advocated, in conjunction with the National League of Cities, for Congress to enact a comprehensive approach to the immigration issue — one that not only addresses equitable enforcement, but also incorporates thoughtful and sensitive solutions to the realities associated with millions of families, students and workers living in California and throughout the country; and

Resolved by the League of California Cities, that the League of California Cities supports the passage of Dream Act legislation, as part of comprehensive immigration reform or as a stand-alone bill, that would give young teens and adults who have grown up in the United States, are enrolled in high school, or completed a high school degree or GED equivalent, and have no serious criminal convictions, the means to remain in the country without fear of removal; and be it further

Resolved, that the League of California Cities urges the President of the United States to stand by those Dreamers, who because they were brought as children, only know the United States to be their country; and be it further

Resolved, That the League of California Cities calls upon the Congress of the United States to take affirmative steps toward development of a bipartisan and more effective version of DACA, which includes a pathway to citizenship; and be it further

Resolved, That the League of California Cities transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.
