



## VERONICA ESCOBAR

El Paso County Judge

August 11, 2017

The Honorable Ken Paxton  
Attorney General of Texas  
P.O. Box 12548  
Austin, Texas 78711-2548

RE: June 29, 2017 Letter from Ken Paxton re Texas, et al., v. United States, et. al., Case No. 1:14-cv-00254 (S.D. Tex.)

Attorney General Paxton:

We write to express our profound disappointment with your letter dated June 29<sup>th</sup> addressed to U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions asking President Trump to rescind the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Doing so would impact the hundreds of thousands of young people nationwide who have come out of the shadows, passed background checks, and have made the most of their opportunity to live and work in America lawfully. Removing the program would be a violation of their trust in us to help them be the most productive community members possible when we asked for them to apply for temporary deferral of deportation and work permits.

As local leaders, we know firsthand that DACA provides stability to the lives of its recipients and that immigrants have and continue to make our communities stronger economically, culturally, and socially. Young adults who have benefited from DACA serve in our military, are pursuing higher education and work as nurses and first responders; they are our neighbors, students, family members and community leaders. As of March 2017, over 234,000<sup>[1]</sup> Texans have benefited from the DACA program and continue to contribute to our communities and fuel our state's economy.

A 2016 study by the National Immigration Law Center and Center for American Progress<sup>[2]</sup> entitled "New Study of DACA Beneficiary Shows Positive Economic and Educational Outcomes" found that receiving DACA has increased recipients' hourly wages by an average of 42 percent. Such an increase affords participants the ability to grow our economy by opening bank accounts, purchasing homes, cars and other goods/services. The study also found that 65 percent of respondents are currently in school. Of those, 70 percent are also working. The dignity afforded to our bright and motivated young people is providing them the opportunity to pursue the American dream.

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<sup>[1]</sup> U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. "Number of Form I-821D, DACA Arrivals for Fiscal Year 2012-2017." (March 2017), [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/Al1%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca\\_performancedata\\_fy2017\\_qtr2.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/Al1%20Form%20Types/DACA/daca_performancedata_fy2017_qtr2.pdf) (last visited on accessed August 4, 2017).

<sup>[2]</sup> Tom Wong, et al. Center for American Progress. "New Study of DACA Beneficiaries Shows Positive Economic and Educational Outcomes." (Oct. 18, 2016), [https://cdn.americanprogressaction.org/content/uploads/2016/10/2111136/2016-daca\\_survey\\_draft\\_updated-FINAL2.pdf](https://cdn.americanprogressaction.org/content/uploads/2016/10/2111136/2016-daca_survey_draft_updated-FINAL2.pdf) (last visited on August 4, 2017).

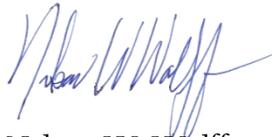
Ending DACA, as the June 29<sup>th</sup> letter demands, would be devastating to youth who know no other country but the United States. The consequences would reverberate across the state and nation as our economy would suffer from the loss of taxes, employers would see a loss in qualified workers who they have trained and invested in, and schools and universities would see a drop in enrollment. Law enforcement agencies have gone on record indicating that the protections DACA provides enables our young people to feel confident in reporting crimes without the fear of deportation thus, making our communities safer.

We understand the need to address individuals who have entered our country and engaged in criminal activity. However, we do not agree with the effort to punish established community members who are working to advance themselves, our state and our country. We call on you to stand with these young people and stand for the best of what Texas and America represents. We urge that you not to pursue amending the pending lawsuit in the Southern District of Texas and/or pursue additional means by which to impact the important DACA program and its participants.

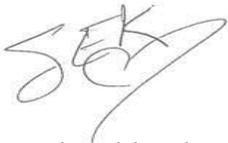
Sincerely,



Veronica Escobar  
County Judge, El Paso, Texas



Nelson W. Wolff  
County Judge, Bexar County, Texas



Sarah Eckhardt  
County Judge, Travis County, Texas



Clay Lewis Jenkins  
County Judge, Dallas County, Texas



Ramon Garcia  
County Judge, Hidalgo County, Texas



Ron Nirenberg  
Mayor, City of San Antonio, Texas



Steve Adler  
Mayor, Austin, Texas



Manuel Leos  
Mayor, Village of Vinton, Texas

August 11, 2017

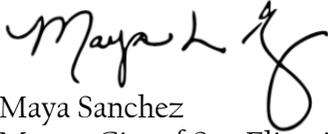
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Joel Villarreal  
Mayor, Rio Grande City, Texas



Ramsey English Cantu  
Mayor, Eagle Pass, Texas



Maya Sanchez  
Mayor, City of San Elizario, Texas

Cc: The Honorable Greg Abbott, Governor of the State of Texas