



July 3, 2017

Attorney General Mark Herring
202 North 9th Street
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Attorney General Mark Herring:

Last Thursday, the Attorneys general from Texas and nine other states urged the Trump Administration to rescind the June 2012 President Obama executive order that created the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. They further threaten to sue the Administration if DACA is not phased out.

Mason DREAMers and the National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC) are writing to request your firm commitment for DACA, such as issuing a public statement in support of DACA and a commitment to meet with our organizations should DACA be rescinded.

Since the creation of DACA, nearly 800,000 young people have benefitted from this program. Over 1,200 young people in Virginia are currently working to and/or currently attending college with in-state tuition rates because of DACA and the 2014 memorandum your office issued that broke down barriers to higher education.

Paula Alderete, a DACA recipient, says "Thanks to DACA, I have been able to enroll at George Mason University and get a job to support my family and attend college. Without it, I would be charged nearly triple what I currently pay even though I have called Virginia home for many years. Attacks like these don't make this country safer and take opportunities for our community to prosper and give back, as we currently do."

Because of DACA, thousands of students are able to continue their education, apply for driver licenses, and work to support their families and communities. The action by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and others is bad policy, not only for its ill will and clear xenophobia; it is bad policy because it will take away from the cultural, economic, and intellectual strength that DACA recipients add to our Commonwealth.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to discussing how we can support all our young people and students in the Commonwealth to reach their highest potential.

Sincerely,

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