



September 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the American College of Physicians (ACP), I am writing to express our strong support for the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2017, H.R. 3440, and urge its immediate consideration in the House. While [we strongly opposed](#) the administration's recent decision to end the federal government's program of deferred action for childhood arrivals (DACA), we are encouraged by reports that President Trump and Senate and House leadership may be moving toward a bipartisan agreement that would protect "Dreamers" from being deported and losing their work and study permits, and create a pathway for "Dreamers" to become U.S. citizens. Enactment of the DREAM Act of 2017 should be the foundation of any plan to overturn the enormous harm that would result if DACA is discontinued.

Termination of DACA threatens to deny the United States of the talents of more than half a million individuals who are making enormous contributions to our country, and will particularly undermine public health and medical education. We urge you to act quickly to ensure that these individuals are able to remain in the United States.

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 152,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

The DREAM Act would establish a three-step pathway to U.S. citizenship through college, work, or the armed services for individuals who were born in another country and brought illegally to the U.S. at a young age ("DREAMers"). This important legislation has been introduced in almost every Congress since 2001 and has received bipartisan support.

ACP supports this legislation as we are concerned about the potential deportation of undocumented medical students, residents, fellows, practicing physicians, and others who came to the United States due to the actions of their parents and have achieved or are eligible for DACA status. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, in 2016, 108

students with DACA status applied to medical school, and 34 matriculants with DACA status entered medical school, bringing total medical school enrollment to approximately 70 students. Without the protections afforded to them by DACA, these students would be forced to discontinue their studies and may be deported. As these students train to become physicians, they will have the experience and background necessary to treat an increasingly racially and ethnically diverse patient population to fulfill the cultural, informational, and linguistic needs of their patients.

We urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act to ensure that these individuals can continue to live, work, and study in this country and later gain citizenship while Congress considers broader legislation to fix our broken immigration system. Should you need any additional information or have any questions, please contact Rich Trachtman at rtrachtman@acponline.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack Ende", with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jack Ende, MD, MACP
President