

**Resolution  
by the Mexican American School Boards Association  
on Support for the Extension & Expansion of DACA**

WHEREAS an estimated 690,000 “Dreamers” are protected from deportation and are given permission to work in the U.S. through the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; and

WHEREAS the Center for Migration Studies in New York estimates that an additional 1.5 million persons reside in the U.S. and would qualify for conditional residence under the DREAM Act, and that 392,500 of these young people now have U.S.-born children who will soon be part of our U.S. public schools; and

WHEREAS the extension and expansion of DACA would be a victory for common sense and would allow Dreamers, who were brought to the U.S. as children and who are American in everything except for their legal status, to make their contribution to the American dream; and

WHEREAS states and localities have already invested an estimated \$150 billion in the education of these young Americans; and

WHEREAS over time, and with a path to citizenship, the return on this investment will likely increase for virtually every indicium of integration, including education levels, employment rates, self-employment numbers, and English proficiency; and

WHEREAS a January 2018 CBS News poll found that 87 percent of respondents believe that Dreamers should be allowed to remain in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, for the sake of the English Language Learners in our Texas public schools, and for the sake of their families, the Mexican American School Boards Association stands in solidarity with Dreamers and yearns for a humane legislative solution for Dreamers and their families; and

WHEREAS the Mexican American School Boards Association supports a “clean” bill that grants legal status and a path to citizenship for DACA recipients separate from discussions on border protection and other measures, while also recognizing the present lack of bipartisan support for this by many members of the U.S. House of Representatives; and

WHEREAS the Mexican American School Boards Association is encouraged by the present bipartisan debate and action on the issue of DACA, which responds to the interests of both parties; and

WHEREAS Dreamers have lived in a state of uncertainty since the Trump Administration’s announcement in Fall 2017 of its intention to end DACA; and

WHEREAS Federal Judge John D. Bates has granted the U.S. Department of Homeland Security 90 days to explain its conclusion that DACA is unlawful, and ruled in April 2018 that the DACA program can still accept new applicants and renew existing applicants, effectively hindering the Trump Administration from ending the program; and

WHEREAS the debate on the future of DACA drags on, with the risk that the U.S. Congress will not resolve the issue before the November 2018 midterm elections and that another year will pass before a solution is found; and

WHEREAS Discharge Petition #0010, filed by U.S. Congressman Carlos Curbelo on May 9, 2018, would clear the way for a vote on four bills that address homeland security and Dreamers, including the Dream Act, which provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers with no border security funding; and including the United and Securing America Act, which provides funding for border security along with a path to citizenship for Dreamers; and including the Securing America's Future Act, which provides more robust security measures and temporary legalization for Dreamers; and including a fourth bill still to be chosen by House Speaker Paul Ryan; and

WHEREAS the bill receiving the most votes, if passed by the Senate and signed by the President, could replace the DACA program;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association supports efforts by the U.S. House of Representatives to force a vote on immigration reform through Discharge Petition #0010 filed by U.S. Congressman Carlos Curbelo on May 9, 2018, thus clearing the way for a vote on four bills that address homeland security and our Dreamers; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association acknowledges and applauds all U.S. Representatives who have added their signatures to Discharge Petition #0010; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association encourages other U.S. Representatives to add their signatures to Discharge Petition #0010, so that the necessary 218 signatures might be gathered by early June 2018, and so that debate and vote on the four bills might occur by the end of June 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mexican American School Boards Association encourages consideration of the Uniting & Securing America Act as the fourth bill for inclusion by Speaker Ryan, since it seeks not only to provide Dreamers with protection from deportation and a path to citizenship, but also to improve the conditions in Central America that are root causes of irregular immigration.

Passed this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May, 2018.

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Homero Garcia, President

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Miguel "Mike" Rosales, Acting Secretary