

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &
CHIEF POLICY OFFICER

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WASHINGTON, DC 20062
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September 29, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Duke,

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce respectfully requests that Department of Homeland Security extend the October 5 deadline for filing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program renewal requests until the end of 2017.

Since September 5, 2017, when the Administration announced its plan to terminate the current DACA program, President Trump and the Congressional leadership of both parties have indicated that they intend to take up, in the very near term, legislation that provides long-term certainty with regard to the ability of DACA beneficiaries to remain in the U.S. and build their lives in the country they refer to as “home.”

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) announced that it will only adjudicate individual requests to renew DACA status for certain beneficiaries whose benefits will expire between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018, if they submit their application by October 5, 2017. The approaching deadline is causing undue — and, because of forthcoming congressional action, likely unnecessary — burdens on not only DACA recipients, but also the many different American businesses that employ them.

In addition, many current DACA recipients seeking to renew their status live in hurricane-ravaged areas in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico. Forcing those in these devastated and damaged communities to meet this arbitrary deadline would be fundamentally unjust.

Extending the deadline would not ease the pressure on Congress to enact bipartisan legislation to address this issue; it would only provide DACA recipients with more time to properly file their renewal requests and paperwork.

Furthermore, an extension of the deadline would provide USCIS with additional time to review and properly vet each individual renewal request, as it would help avoid a likely deluge of DACA renewal requests from being received by the agency next week.

The Chamber looks forward to working with the Administration and Congress on legislation consistent with fundamental American principles and the best interest of the nation and the American economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Neil L. Bradley", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Neil L. Bradley