



## **HNBA 2018 RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DREAM ACT LEGISLATION**

**WHEREAS**, the Hispanic National Bar Association ("HNBA") is an association created to represent the interests of Hispanic legal professionals and the Hispanic community, acting as a collective voice for issues of common concern to its members; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA is the national voice of its legal community and Hispanics in the United States and its territories and possessions; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA is invested in promoting the rich tapestry of backgrounds, ethnicities, cultures, experiences and interests that characterize the American population; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States' immigration system should reflect our nation's basic values of family, economic opportunity, and fairness; and

**WHEREAS**, the majority of Americans believe that the United States needs legislation that provides a permanent legal status and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth, commonly known as "DREAMers" [referring to the original "DREAM" legislation from 2001, entitled, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act]; and

**WHEREAS**, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has empowered nearly 800,000 young people to come out of the shadows to work legally, get drivers licenses, go to college, serve in the military, meaningfully volunteer and serve their communities, and fulfill their economic and personal goals in greater measure, while simultaneously delivering significant benefits to the U.S. economy; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 97% of DACA recipients are in school or in the workforce and DACA helped recipients secure jobs with better pay, thus contributing in greater measure to the U.S. economy; and

**WHEREAS**, foreign nationals in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) present special opportunities to the United States in innovation and advancement, and they should be permitted to fast-track their application for legal permanent residency; and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that losing the DREAMer population would cost our economy nearly half a trillion dollars in GDP loss over the next decade, and harm American employers by costing them an estimated \$6.3 billion in unnecessary turnover costs to recruit, hire and train more than 700,000 new employees, at least, who are currently employed under DACA authorization; and

**WHEREAS**, for the past five years, because of the DREAMers' contributions to the U.S. economy, our economy is stronger, has more businesses, and our tax base is larger; and

**WHEREAS**, because DACA recipients are more likely to start their own businesses than the general American population (five percent of all DREAMers and 8 percent of DREAMers over the age of 25 have started their own businesses in the United States, compared to a 3.1 percent of the U.S. population), and small businesses are key source of job growth, DREAMers are integral to the future economic growth of this country; and

**WHEREAS**, because the DACA Program has helped almost 70 percent of DREAMers secure better-paying jobs than they likely would have been able to get if they had no legal status, and better pay leads to major purchases, the DACA Program has allowed DREAMers to contribute even more to this economy than they could have without the program<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, history shows that our nation depends on the infusion of ideas, creativity and energy that immigrants bring with them;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, it is estimated that the passage of legislation placing DREAMers on a path to legal status would add a total of \$22.7 billion annually to the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP), and an estimated \$281 billion to the U.S. economy over the next ten years, and ultimately raise the average incomes of all Americans on a per capita basis; and

**WHEREAS**, if even half of all workers who are immediately eligible for the DREAM Act complete the educational requirements to move from conditional status to lawful permanent residency—as distinct from the military service or employment paths—the annual gains could be even higher, creating an “education bump” and reaching as high as \$728.4 billion cumulatively over a decade; and

**WHEREAS**, the HNBA believes that Congress should listen to the more than 400 Fortune 500 CEOs and leaders who signed a letter to Congress in support DREAMers and urging Congress to pass clean DREAM Act legislation, stating, “DREAMers are vital to the future of our companies and our economy. With them, we grow and create jobs,” and that DREAMers, “are part of why we will continue to have a global competitive advantage.”<sup>3</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> Nearly two-thirds of DACA recipients report buying their first car, and almost one in six report buying a new home, after their applications were approved; and DACA recipients also pay billions of dollars in federal, state and local taxes.

<sup>2</sup> Last year, all six of the American winners of the Nobel Prize in economics and scientific fields were first-generation immigrants. First-generation immigrants or their children founded more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies in this country.

<sup>3</sup> See <https://www.businessleadersdreamletter.com/>

**WHEREAS**, administrative or legislative efforts to expand the scope of enforcement priorities to target youth and immigrants with no criminal records do not make our country safer or more prosperous, do not help create a more fair or just society, and do not resolve the underlying issue of our broken immigration system;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the HNBA calls on Congress to pass legislation that codifies the benefits currently conferred upon recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), including but not limited to: authorization for employment, clemency from immigration detention, and legal status that provides for a path to citizenship;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HNBA opposes DREAM Act legislation that does not include: conditional permanent residence; lawful permanent residents; and an earned path to citizenship; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HNBA calls for the passage of “clean” DREAM Act legislation that does not include provisions related to ancillary immigration issues (border wall funding, enforcement issues unrelated to DREAMers, etc.), or other unrelated issues (tax reform, health care, etc.), and does not attempt in any way to undermine, diminish or remove DREAMers’ equal protection and due process rights under the Constitution; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HNBA supports administrative relief that will address the harm caused to DREAMers by lack of action by Congress; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the HNBA opposes administrative efforts to target, remove, or criminalize immigrants DREAMers, who have been shown to pose no danger to this country.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this resolution shall be the policy of the HNBA until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolution.

#### **CERTIFICATION**

I, Erica V. Mason, National President of the Hispanic National Bar Association, hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly enacted by the Executive Committee pursuant to the authority delegated to it by a duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Governors.



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Erica V. Mason,  
HNBA National President