



## League of United Latin American Citizens

January 13, 2017

NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
Roger C. Rocha, Jr.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS  
Margaret Moran  
Immediate Past President  
Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Treasurer  
Jared Hernandez  
Youth President  
Frank Urteaga  
VP for Elderly  
Lourdes Galvan  
VP for Women  
Michael Urteaga  
VP for Youth  
Abigail Zapote  
VP for Young Adults  
David Hernandez  
VP for Farwest  
Joe Henry  
VP for Midwest  
Juan Lopez  
VP for Northeast  
Lydia Medrano  
VP for Southeast  
Gabriel Rosales  
VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS  
Richard Estrada  
Arizona  
Rey Hernandez  
Arkansas  
Dave Rodriguez  
California  
Jose Alanis  
Colorado  
Thomas Higgins  
District of Columbia  
Robert Flores  
Florida  
Jose Javier Lopez  
Illinois  
Wanda Gordils  
Indiana  
Michael Reyes  
Iowa  
Madaí Rivera  
Kansas  
Yvette Butler, MD  
Maryland  
Magalis Troncoso  
Massachusetts  
James Fukuda  
New Jersey  
Dennis Montoya, JD  
New Mexico  
Eduardo LaGuerra  
New York  
Laura Moese  
Ohio  
Abdiel A. Martinez  
Puerto Rico  
Lupe Torres  
Texas  
Antonella Packard  
Utah  
Bob Garcia  
Virginia  
Diana Perez  
Washington  
Eileen Figueroa  
Wisconsin

U.S. Congress  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support the *Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act of 2016*. This bipartisan bill, spearheaded by Senators Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Richard Durbin (D-IL) in the Senate, and Representatives Mike Coffman (R-CO) and Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) in the House, would provide temporary relief from deportation and employment authorization to individuals who are eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

As you know, DACA provides temporary deportation protection and work authorization to young students and veterans who grew up in the United States if they register with the government, pay a fee, and pass a criminal background check. The lives of over 750,000 people participating in this program are now in jeopardy, as President-elect Donald Trump has made clear that he will undo all of President Obama's administrative actions. Deporting these young, talented, and hard-working individuals, who were brought to this country out-of-status through no fault of their own, would be morally reprehensible.

In addition, deporting them would also be terrible for the economy. A recent report by the Center for American Progress highlights that if DACA recipients lose their permits and employment, the cumulative U.S. gross domestic product would be reduced by \$433.4 billion over the following 10 years. All 50 states would be impacted by the deportation of these DREAMers. Passing the BRIDGE Act is critical so that these DREAMers can continue to work and study without fear of being deported while Congress debates a comprehensive solution to fix our immigration system.

The BRIDGE Act would provide "provisional protected presence" and work authorization for 3 years after the enactment of the act to eligible participants. I strongly urge you to support the BRIDGE Act and stand-up to protect our Latino families at this critical time. For more information, please have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation, by email at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org).

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.  
LULAC National President