January 13, 2017

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.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President