

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3012

April 24, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly,

I am writing to request clarification regarding the Department's policies toward individuals granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). You've indicated that "[DACA status is a commitment ... by the government](#)" which has since given the reassurance to these young men and women of our commitment to them and their education.

The DACA program has been essential to ensuring that those individuals brought to the United States as children, through no fault of their own, are able to work and study just like other Americans. The DACA program has enabled its beneficiaries to come out of the shadows and be engaged participants in our communities and our country. This program has not only reached the intended beneficiaries, as each day these men and women help weave the ever growing fabric of our nation.

Based on your prior statements I am hopeful that you will continue to recognize the value of the DACA program. Sadly, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer and Attorney General Jeff Sessions each refused to guarantee the public that DACA recipients were protected under current administration policy. Their refusal to provide these assurances flies in the face of our nation's values and interests, undermining the program's nationwide benefits and necessitating your intervention.

Reports of the arrest and deportation of 23 year-old DACA recipient Juan Manuel Montes of California, the subsequent confusion surrounding the justification of these actions and this Administration's conflicting and ambiguous stance on this program justifiably amplifies the fears of DREAMers. Faced with the prospect of being banished to a place of which they have no memory, these young men and women, who consider the United States their only home, are looking for reassurance regarding the Administration's position.

I urge you to provide guidance to Congress on current administration policy, underscoring the commitment to the principle that DACA recipients shouldn't fear removal. As the Vice Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, understanding the complex nature of the enforcement of these policies and multiple agencies involved in enforcing immigration laws, I believe it is crucial that the Administration speak with one voice on this matter, so the public can fully understand its position and this policy.

Sincerely,



BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN
Member of Congress