

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 18, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to thank you and express our appreciation for your recent decision to grant "deferred action," protection from deportation, and work permits to certain young people who call the United States home and who are not an enforcement priority for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

We welcome the opportunity to ensure that our constituents who fit the criteria for relief are among the estimated 800,000 individuals whose lives will forever be changed as a result of your leadership. DREAMers coming forward to apply will mark a new chapter, but not the last chapter, in a long struggle for inclusion in society. The new policy represents an important down payment toward achieving broader reforms in the future.

The implications of your policy are already reverberating well beyond those who are potentially eligible for deferred action. With this announcement, you have changed the public discourse about immigration and immigrants, and our communities are now excited and hopeful. Even those who attack immigrants for political purposes are second guessing their negative posture toward the young immigrants you are protecting. You have opened the door to reform, and people of all political stripes recognize that change is coming and is inevitable.

We recognize that there are those who will want to take the power of discretion away from you and the Executive branch. Like you, we agree that you are on solid moral and legal ground and we will do everything within our power to defend your actions and the authority that you, like past Presidents, can exercise to set enforcement priorities and better protect our neighborhoods and our nation.

Despite this vital reprieve for a deserving group of promising individuals, we also understand that it does not diminish the need for a permanent solution and comprehensive immigration reform. Mr. President, we stand committed to fixing the broken immigration system once and for all, and we are ready to fight for a permanent solution that benefits all children and families, the economy, our national security and our nation.

We thank you again for your actions on behalf of DREAMers. We stand ready to work with you to ensure the policy's success and to use it as a stepping stone for broader relief and future legislative action.

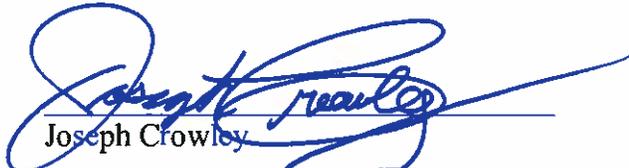
Sincerely,



Luis V. Gutierrez



Zoe Lofgren



Joseph Crowley



Judy Chu



Xavier Becerra



Nancy Pelosi



Steny Hoyer



John Conyers, Jr.



Howard Berman



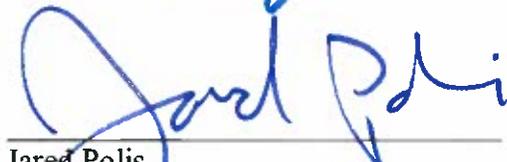
Lucille Roybal-Allard



Charles A. Gonzalez



Michael M. Honda



Jared Polis



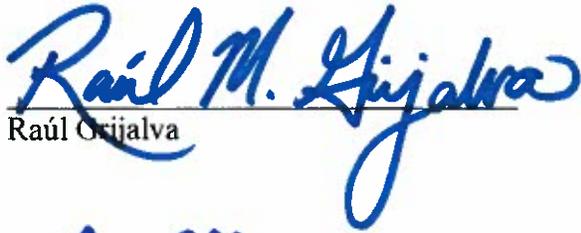
Barbara Lee



Susan A. Davis



Gene Green

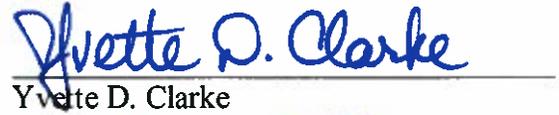

Raúl Gijalva


Rubén Hinojosa


James P. Moran

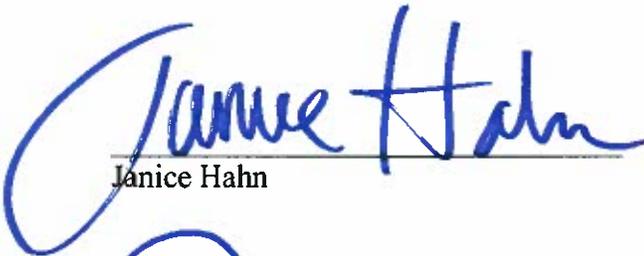

Lois Capps


Eleanor Holmes Norton


Yvette D. Clarke


Bill Pascrell, Jr.

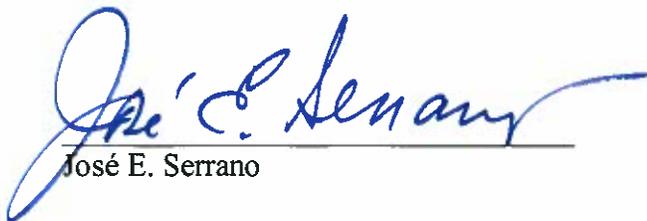

Laura Richardson


Janice Hahn

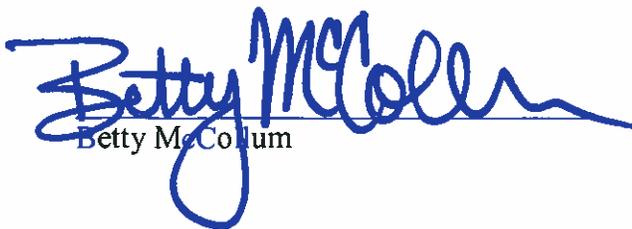

Silvestre Reyes


Peter Welch


Hansen Clarke


José E. Serrano


Terri Sewell


Betty McCollum

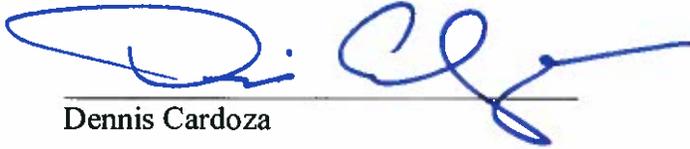

Jerrold Nadler



Bob Filner



Bobby L. Rush



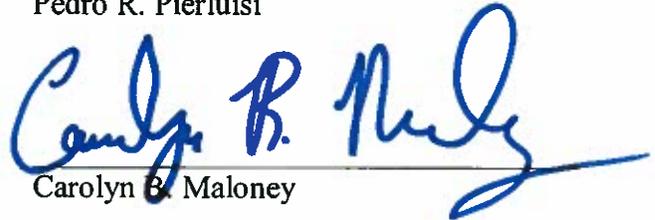
Dennis Cardoza



Pedro R. Pierluisi



Frederica Wilson



Carolyn B. Maloney



Charles B. Rangel



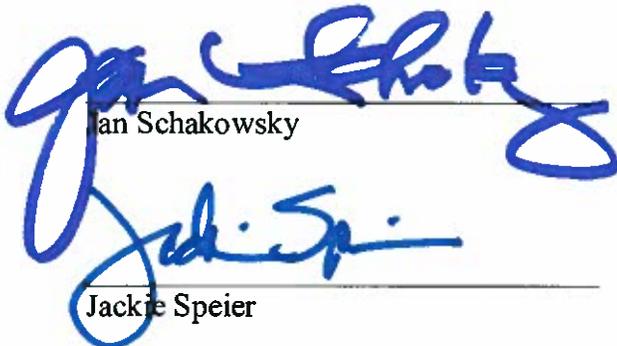
Gwen Moore



Edolphus "Ed" Towns



Louise M. Slaughter



Jan Schakowsky



Ted Deutch



Jackie Speier



Chaka Fattah



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan



Rick Larsen

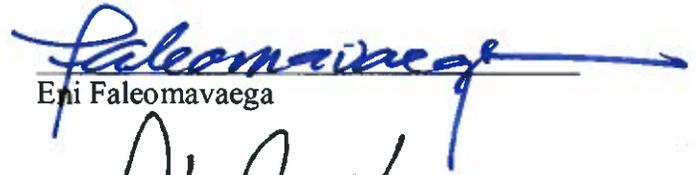


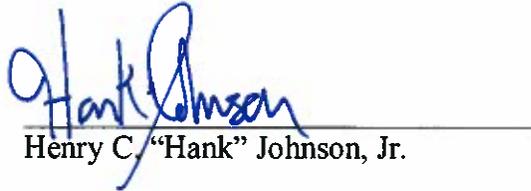
Maxine Waters

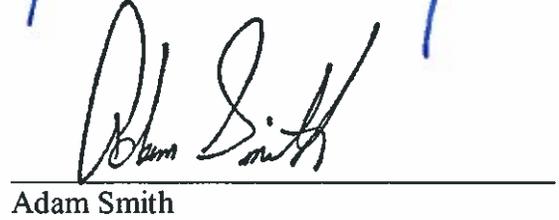


Jim McDermott


George Miller

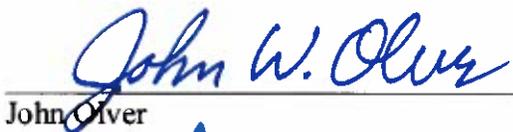

Eni Faleomavaega


Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.

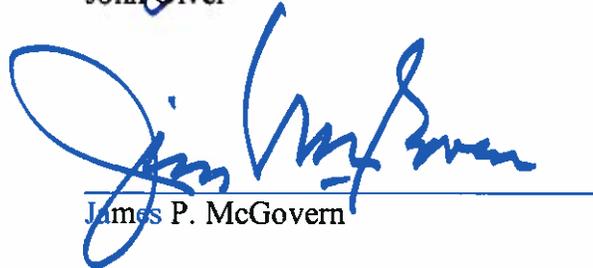

Adam Smith


John Lewis


Al Green


John Oliver


Grace F. Napolitano


James P. McGovern


Earl Blumenauer


Joe Baca


John Garamendi


Rush Holt


John B. Larson


Robert A. Brady

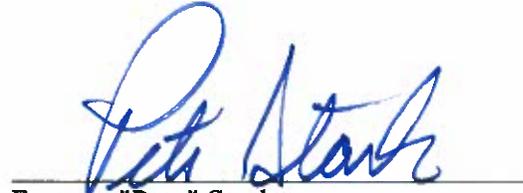

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.


Doris O. Matsui


Sam Parr


Keith Ellison


Gary C. Peters


Fortney "Pete" Stark


Eliot L. Engel

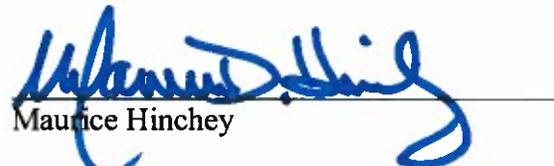

Dennis J. Kucinich


Lynn Woolsey


Lloyd Doggett


Ed Pastor


Corrine Brown


Maurice Hinchey


Linda Sánchez

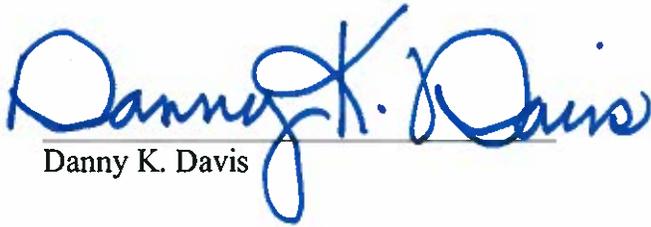

Albio Sires


Gregory Meeks


Mike Quigley

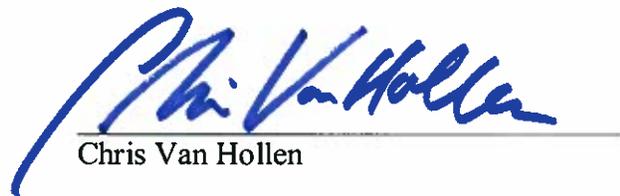

Loretta Sanchez


Russ Carnahan


Danny K. Davis

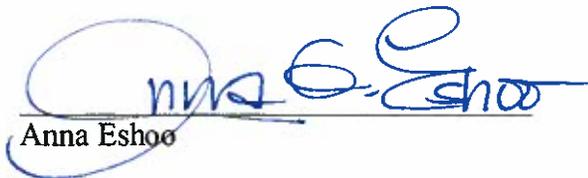

Nydia Velázquez


Nita Lowey

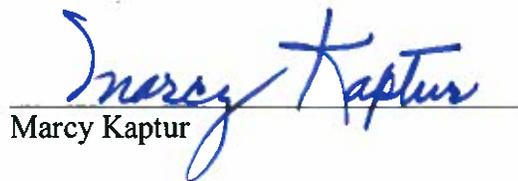

Chris Van Hollen

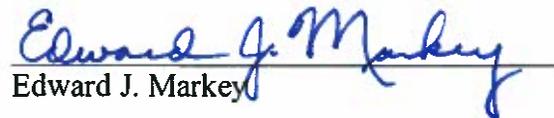

Mike Thompson


Steve Israel


Anna Eshoo


Diana DeGette


Marcy Kaptur


Edward J. Markey


David Cicilline


Henry A. Waxman



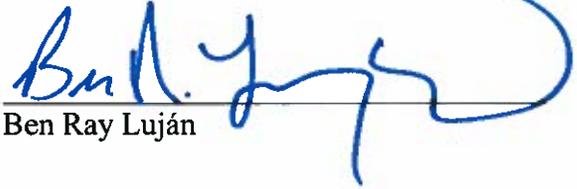
Karen Bass



Barney Frank



Jim Costa



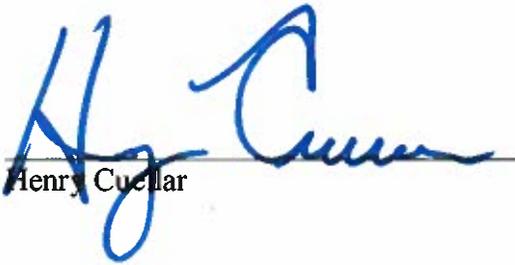
Ben Ray Luján



Steve Cohen



Shella Jackson Lee



Henry Cuellar



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott