



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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As Mayor of Houston, I stand united with other mayor and local officials in declaring that we are with Dreamers and Deferred Actions for Childhood Arrivals recipients. We recognize their enormous role in our communities and families and their contributions to our schools, workplaces, and shared prosperity as a nation.

We have been elected to represent millions of people in the largest cities and communities in Texas. We raise our voices to remind our national leaders that contrary to the effort of certain Texas politicians to end DACA, we believe that our communities and our economy benefit when young people contribute their enthusiasm, skills, and talent to Texas communities and state revenues.

Reports estimate that ending DACA would cost Texas nearly \$6.3 billion in annual GDP losses. That doesn't include the tens of billions more in lost contributions to Medicare and Social Security, and the pricetag to businesses in turnover costs.

Since June 2012, 124,000 young people who came to the United States as children and who now reside in Texas have come forward, passed background checks, and received permission to live and work in America. With DACA, they have advanced their education, started small businesses, and more fully established themselves as integral members of our society.

Ending DACA means all of these young people would be at risk of deportation and separation from their families and our communities. As Texans, we must stand up to this senselessly cruel result.

We urge President Trump to sustain his commitment and preserve DACA. We also encourage President Trump and Republicans and Democrats in Congress to enact legislation that replaces fear and uncertainty with permanent protection for Dreamers. The recently introduced stand-alone Dream Act of 2017 would do that and we support it.

As the leaders of communities across Texas—we have seen these young people grow up in our communities—we recognize how they have enriched and strengthened our cities, states, schools, businesses, congregations, and families. We believe it is a moral imperative that the administration and the country know we are with them. We also join together to send our assurances to Dreamers: we see you, we value you, and we are ready to defend you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor, City of Houston