



Homeland Security

December 6, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Boehner:

I understand that the Congress is expected to consider the “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010” (the “DREAM Act”) to address the immigration status of persons who know no other home than the United States. I write to urge you to pass this important bill.

While there are many good reasons to support the DREAM Act, I write to highlight the manner in which the DREAM Act would further enhance our immigration enforcement efforts. The Department of Homeland Security is committed to the smart and effective enforcement of our immigration laws — prioritizing the identification and removal of criminal aliens who pose a threat to public safety. Over the past two years, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has engaged in record breaking immigration enforcement, removing more than 195,000 convicted criminal aliens. The 2010 statistics represent a more than 70 percent increase in removal of criminal aliens compared to 2008.

Passage of the DREAM Act would further enhance these efforts by providing a firm, but fair, means for those individuals who were brought to the United States as children to obtain a legal status. The Act would bolster the Department’s ability to focus its enforcement resources on detaining and removing criminal aliens and those who pose a threat to our national security and public safety. All applicants will undergo rigorous background checks to determine DREAM Act eligibility. The criminal and security-related grounds of inadmissibility and deportability would apply to these applications.

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable John Boehner
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Passage of this bill will not resolve the need for comprehensive immigration reform. While the broader immigration debate continues, however, I urge the Congress to pass the DREAM Act and allow those who arrived in this country as children to adjust their immigration status. I look forward to working with you on this critical piece of legislation.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that there is no objection to the submission of this letter from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet Napolitano', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

December 6, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and McConnell:

I understand that the Congress is expected to consider the “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act of 2010” (the “DREAM Act”) to address the immigration status of persons who know no other home than the United States. I write again to urge you to pass this important bill.

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