



**JAMES L. MADARA, MD**  
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September 25, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
S-321 U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Graham and Durbin:

On behalf of the physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I am writing to express our support for the “Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act of 2017” (S. 1615), which would offer a bicameral, bipartisan solution for the nearly 800,000 undocumented children and young adults who have been protected under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. By providing an opportunity to earn lawful permanent residence status, this legislation would offer permanent protection for these individuals who contribute to our country and economy.

Physicians and medical students with DACA status provide key health care services and often fill gaps in patient care. In particular, DACA recipients often work in high-need areas where communities face challenges in recruiting other physicians and are more likely to be bilingual, to come from diverse cultural backgrounds, and to understand challenges in certain ethnic communities. The AMA believes that these individuals enhance patient access to high quality care. Those protected by the DACA program also include medical students, residents, and fellows who are working to pass the lengthy and rigorous training and education needed to become a physician. These individuals now face uncertainty about completing their degrees, paying their student loans, and serving patients.

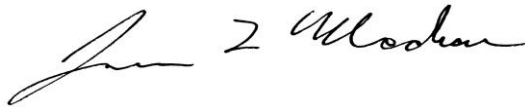
The DREAM Act would protect these individuals by establishing an eight-year conditional permanent residency status that can later be converted into a permanent residency status. Individuals will still need to meet educational requirements and prove that they have not committed a felony, serious crime, or pose a threat to our national security and public safety, ensuring those protected under the law are serving our national interests.

The AMA believes that DACA recipients should be able to continue to study, work, and improve patient access to care without the fear and uncertainty of being deported. The DREAM Act offers a permanent solution that eliminates the uncertainty currently facing these individuals.

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The AMA applauds you for your leadership in introducing the DREAM Act, and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to advance this legislation in Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James L. Madara, MD