



*A Union of Professionals*

## **Joint Statement of AFT State Federation Presidents Demanding that Congress Pass a Clean Dream Act**

Two months ago, the Trump administration made a cruel, racially motivated and senseless decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, President Barack Obama's immigration policy that shielded from deportation hundreds of thousands of young undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children.

As we gather in the city of Chicago—in a state that is home to more than 40,000 young undocumented immigrants who are currently protected by DACA—the American Federation of Teachers' state federation presidents stand together to urge the members of Congress to pass a clean Dream Act—one without any added enforcement measures. The Dream Act of 2017 is a bipartisan bill introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate that would create an earned, legal pathway to permanent residency status for Dreamers and DACAmented individuals.

Some 1.9 million Dreamers—including 20,000 bilingual educators who fill critical teaching positions in school districts with educator shortages—are counting on lawmakers to pass the Dream Act.

The clock is ticking. We are asking Democrats and Republicans, alike, to take a stand for those Dreamers and use whatever legislative mechanism possible to do so. Twenty-five Democrats have done that, for example, by conditioning their support of the year-end spending bill with protections for the Dreamers.

Every day that Congress fails to act, immigrant youth who lose their DACA protection and work authorization will continue to be forced back into the shadows to live in fear of deportation. We are calling on Congress to put politics aside and enact a sensible and long-term solution.

In this, the land of opportunity, it is time to ensure real opportunity and equality for all.

### **AFT State Federation Presidents:**

- Deb Snell, president, AFT Vermont
- Lisa Ochs, president, AFT\_Kansas
- Stephanie Ly, president, AFT New Mexico
- Larry J. Carter, Jr., president, Louisiana Federation of Teachers
- Ted Kirsch, president, AFT Pennsylvania
- Christine Campbell, president, AFT West Virginia
- GlenEva Dunham, AFT Indiana

- Melissa Cropper, president, Ohio Federation of Teachers
- Donna Chiera, president, AFT New Jersey
- Thomas J. Gosnell, president, AFT Massachusetts
- Francis J. Flynn, president, Rhode Island Federation of Teachers
- Sandra E. Davis, vice president, AFT Maryland
- Dan Montgomery, president, Illinois Federation of Teachers
- Louis Malfaro, president, Texas AFT
- Donna Phillips, president, Alaska Nurses Association
- Jan Hochadel, president, AFT Connecticut
- Karen Strickland, president, AFT Washington
- David Rives, president, AFT-Oregon
- Brad Asay, president, AFT Utah
- Mary Best, president, AFT-Oklahoma
- Kim Kohlhaas, president, AFT-Wisconsin
- Sarah R. Messmer, president, AFT Colorado
- Kathy Chavez, vice president, AFT New Mexico
- Tim Stoelb, president, Oregon School Employees Association (OSEA)

*Learn more about the AFTs work on the DREAM Act and immigration at [www.aft.org/immigration](http://www.aft.org/immigration)*