



July 21, 2017

The Honorable Richard Durbin
US Senate
Room 711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20015

Dear Senator Durbin,

I'm writing to thank you for introducing The Dream Act of 2017 and to offer the support of the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools for this important legislation.

America's high-quality public charter schools are committed to providing the best education for our students. We make this commitment because we want all our students, as adults, to have the capacity to fully contribute to and participate in the economic, civic, and cultural life of our country.

Some of our students were born elsewhere and brought to our country as very young children, without going through the appropriate processes. For them, America is home, the only country they know and the only country to which they have allegiance. We believe nurturing that allegiance is critical—to these young people and to our nation's future. The threat of deportation and limited access to the benefits of citizenship work against this goal and put students under tremendous stress, inhibiting their ability to learn. I believe your legislation could be effective in removing this stress and helping to fully integrate these students into all aspects of American life.

I'm particularly grateful that your bill is bipartisan. In times like these—with sharp and often counter-productive political divides—it is heartening to see Senators reaching across the aisle to improve the lives of vulnerable young people.

On a personal note, I came from Iran to this country with my parents as a very young child. Though I did not face all the issues that the Dreamers do, I am keenly aware of the many challenges immigrant families face. Lifting the threat of deportation and creating access to citizenship rights would help ease some of these challenges and help these young people fully appreciate—as I do—the many blessings of being an American.

Please let us know how we can support your efforts to pass this vital legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim G. Rees". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.