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March 5, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

The National Association of Manufacturers believes legislation is the best way to assure a permanent solution that offers certainty for Dreamers and participants in the Temporary Protected Status program. This week's hearing is an important step welcomed by manufacturers to achieve a long-term solution for these populations facing ongoing uncertainty. The immigration system is broken, and elected leaders have an obligation to fix the system.

The National Association of Manufacturers represents small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states. Manufacturing employs more than 12.8 million men and women, contributes over \$2.3 trillion to the U.S. economy annually, has the largest economic impact of any major sector and accounts for more than three-quarters of all private-sector research and development in the nation. The NAM is the powerful voice of the manufacturing community and the leading advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across the United States.

Manufacturers urge Congress to provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers and a path to permanent legal status for TPS recipients in the country, two populations facing continued uncertainty under our broken immigration system. Dreamers—individuals brought to the United States as children by their parents—continue to fear that they will lose the only home they have ever known. Individuals with TPS status participate in a long-standing humanitarian program designed to respond to global and regional challenges by allowing individuals to remain in the United States due to unsafe or unstable conditions in their home countries. In both cases, these individuals have often lived in the United States for decades and are integrated into communities and workplaces across the country. Absent congressional action, these individuals' futures in the United States are made uncertain by shifting administrative actions and unpredictable court decisions.

Congress needs to send a strong signal to this segment of the immigrant community that we welcome their talents, contributions of hard work, desire for education, and if serving, support their willingness to wear the uniform of the armed forces. Manufacturers call on Congress to assure Dreamers and TPS recipients that their future is safe. Manufacturers will stand by efforts that improve our immigration system and enhance border security.

The United States is a nation of immigrants, and the NAM believes that our communities and our economy are strengthened by the talents and skills that these two populations bring to America. Enacting bipartisan legislation to provide a permanent path forward for eligible

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Dreamers and TPS recipients to remain in the United States is one aspect of the real reform necessary to improve our immigration system.

Beyond this week's hearing, manufacturers believe that now is the time for Congress to act to overhaul our broken immigration system. Congress should pursue solutions that bolster our national security, demonstrates compassion and establish an immigration system that reflects today's workforce economic realities. Because manufacturers are in the business of building solutions, the NAM recently unveiled "[A Way Forward](#)," a reasonable and practical proposal designed to address the challenges created by our current system and to fix those issues once and for all.

The NAM's "A Way Forward" proposal identifies seven core areas of action for Congress and the administration to take:

- Build walls, fences and barriers and employ other measures to strengthen border security;
- Prioritize America's workforce needs through reforms to the legal immigration system;
- Reform nonimmigrant visas and temporary worker programs to reflect employer needs, including a fund to support STEM programs so that we can reduce the need for these types of visas in the future;
- Provide a permanent and compassionate solution for populations facing uncertainty, including the Dreamers, who were brought here as children and know no other home;
- Reform asylum and refugee programs for a more orderly and humane system, including asylum standards consistent with our values;
- Fix the problem of the unauthorized population with a firm reset, requiring an orderly process of review, including financial penalties for those who seek to become legal and deportation for those who choose to stay in the shadows;
- Strengthen the rule of law so that it is respected and followed by all, with a focus on gang violence and also on requiring localities to cooperate to advance the enforcement of immigration priorities;

Congress must seize this opportunity and end the division that has come to define this issue. We know that not all aspects of this plan will appeal to all people, but we believe that a comprehensive solution requires compromise, and this proposal was designed with that in mind. A complete copy of the plan is included as an attachment.

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



cc: The Honorable Zoe Lofgren, The Honorable Ken Buck