



September 15, 2017

Senator Charles Schumer
Office of the Senate Minority Leader
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Office of the House Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: DREAM Act and southwest border enforcement negotiations

Dear Senator Schumer and Representative Pelosi:

On behalf of Amnesty International USA (“AIUSA”) and our more than one million members and supporters nationwide, we write to express our support for your negotiations with the President to pass the (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) DREAM Act (S.1615/H.R. 3440). A legislative solution is long overdue to shield the nearly 800,000 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals beneficiaries from deportation, and to provide permanent residency and eventually U.S. citizenship for Dreamers. AIUSA supports immigration relief for the broadest population of Dreamers, which is essential to protecting their human rights.

At the same time, however, AIUSA has serious concerns about any legislative package that would add new southwest border enforcement measures. AIUSA vigorously opposed the [\\$1.6 billion](#) appropriation for a southwest border wall, passed by the House in July 2017 as part of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018 AKA Make America Secure Appropriations Act (H.R. 3219). AIUSA’s board of directors made their opposition to the border wall loud and clear in a letter sent this week to [Speaker Ryan and Senator McConnell](#).

AIUSA’s objections to a border wall are two-fold: (a) Congress should not fund a wall that will cut through tribal land unless the U.S. government first consults with and obtains the free, prior, and informed consent of affected Native American Nations, as required by the United Nations (“UN”) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and (b) a border wall would deter survivors of violence, torture and other abuses from seeking protection in the U.S., in violation of the 1951 UN

Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the UN Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Beyond the border wall, AIUSA opposes any measures that would detain, criminalize, or endanger people seeking humanitarian protection in the U.S. In particular, we urge Congress to commit to protecting Central American children and families who have fled sexual abuse, gang violence, and torture. Under U.S. and international law, our government must provide a fair asylum process, and these protections cannot be sacrificed, compromised, or negotiated away.

As you craft and negotiate a legislative package with the President, AIUSA stands ready to work with you to pass a permanent solution for the Dreamers that does not sacrifice the lives of Central American children and families and the welfare of residents in U.S. border communities. AIUSA urges you to fight for a package that:

- (1) protects the human rights of all Dreamers;
- (2) rejects any southwest border wall; and
- (3) rejects any “border security” measures that would harm survivors of torture and persecution seeking humanitarian protection in the U.S. and would violate the human rights of residents living in U.S. border communities.

Thank you for your leadership. For more information, please contact Joanne Lin at jlin@aiusa.org or 202/509-8151.

Sincerely,

Margaret Huang
Executive Director

Joanne Lin
Senior Managing Director