

Biz Leaders to Congress: Ending DACA Will Create Workforce Crisis

Diane Wilson

January 17, 2018

"Dreamers" refers to a group of roughly 700,000 undocumented immigrants who were children when they arrived in the U.S. Until Trump abruptly ended it a year ago, a program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, allowed Dreamers to apply for work permits and avoid deportation.

Chief executives of more than 100 companies-including Facebook Inc., Apple Inc. and General Motors Co. -are urging Congress to pass by next week legislation to protect "dreamers", undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children. It is set to publish in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal as a full-page ad on Thursday.

Those signing the letter included Apple CEO Tim Cook, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and General Motors CEO Mary Barra.

"Failure to act in time will lead to businesses losing valuable talent, cause disruptions in the workforce, and will result in significant costs", said the letter sent to Senate and House leaders of both parties.

President Donald Trump announced in September he was scrapping the program, but with a six-month lag - meaning those covered by DACA would be subject to deportation starting March.

In the letter, the CEOs call the pending expiration of the DACA program a "crisis", writing that Congress should immediately pass a permanent piece of legislation so enable Dreamers to continue living in the United States (via The Hill), so long as they are working and contributing to their communities... Silicon Valley executives were among the most vocal opponents of the White House's decision to end the program, often citing a CATO Institute study that found that ending DACA could cost the USA economy \$215 billion. That's the same deadline that Congress has to pass funding to avert a government shutdown.

"We write to urge Congress to act immediately and pass a permanent bipartisan legislative solution to enable Dreamers who are now living, working, and contributing to our communities to continue doing so", the executives wrote in the letter. Newburgh Gazette