

September 27, 2017

Elaine Duke, Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Office of the Secretary
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Duke,

I write to ask that you provide a short extension of the filing deadline and fee waivers for those individuals covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy who live in the states and territories affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. As part of the Sept. 5, 2017 memorandum rescinding the 2012 DACA policy, the administration determined that current recipients whose status is set to expire between September 5, 2017 and March 5, 2018 may apply for a two-year renewal of DACA. The filing deadline was set for Oct. 5, 2017.

Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands have just started on the road to recovery. Some DACA recipients are still living in shelters and some government offices may not be open, or even accessible. Because of the large number of individuals impacted, we request a three-month extension of the filing deadline for renewal-eligible DACA youth living in areas impacted by the hurricanes. Given the widespread disruption, I believe a short filing extension is warranted and ensures that these individuals will not be unduly disadvantaged.

College leaders know firsthand that the high-achieving young people in DACA contribute in many ways to our nation. In the wake of these unprecedented weather events, we should support all those whose lives have been upended. I strongly believe that doing so would be both the humane and the just course of action. I appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President