



To: Secretary Rex Tillerson
From: Senator Adam Morfeld, Nebraska
CC: Senator Deb Fischer, Senator Benjamin Sasse
Subject: Now is the time to extend DACA protections

Dear Secretary Tillerson,

As America inches closer to another government shutdown, we are no closer to preserving the critically important Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. As the individual serving as Secretary of State for America's Cabinet – a group of young elected officials from across the country who came together to offer an alternative vision for the nation – I urge you to take immediate steps that would protect the status of DACA recipients.

Congress is now forced to divert time and attention to cleaning up this self-made chaos instead of working to create a budget that works for all Americans, and President Trump continues to hold these young people's lives hostage. As a lifelong businessman, you know that this is not how deals are made and you know as well as anyone that this kind of uncertain political environment is what CEOs, Board members and investors like least.

As a state Senator from Lincoln, Nebraska, I represent the city with the largest refugee resettlement community per capita in the country, so I can say with confidence that immigrants play an enormously important role in our communities. They pay taxes, contribute to our schools and local economies, start businesses, raise families and enrich our local communities with new experiences and traditions. I urge you and President Trump, who once said he'd "deal with DACA with heart," to stop using Dreamers as political pawns for short-term political gain.

Our DACA youth are Americans in every sense of the word. Let's welcome them in this great country that they call home. And let's not confuse resolving their status with anything having to do with national security. Our nation's security is a top priority and it needs real attention; attention that is currently being diverted by this political name-calling and fear-mongering.

As America's top diplomat, we urge you to impress upon President Trump the importance of protecting Dreamers and keeping our country safe.

Sincerely,

Adam Morfeld
State Senator, Nebraska
Secretary of State, America's Cabinet