

WF# n4 9806
Rev. Eugene T. Locke, D.Min.
1275 Bayberry Court
Crozet, Virginia 22932

SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY ESEC SEC

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August 30, 2017

The Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Ms. Duke,

I am writing to urge you to recommend to President Donald Trump that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program be continued, at the least until a comprehensive immigration reform bill can be passed, or the Dream Act, sponsored by Senators Durbin and Graham can be passed and implemented.

These children, teens, and young adults are here due to no fault or action of their own, and the United States is the only home they have known. Because of the requirements for registering with DACA, we know that these young people are going to school or college, working jobs, and contributing to our economy and our society. They are highly motivated to succeed in life, and the country is better off for having them here.

Some ten state attorney generals are opposed to such a continuance, citing overreach of executive power in setting up the program, and contending that these young people are here illegally. However, the DACA program increases labor force participation in this population as well as income, thus contributing to greater social stability. The executive order establishing this program is a rational and justifiable use of "prosecutorial discretion", which is essential to any immigration policy striving to strike a balance between compelling humanitarian needs and national security.

To end this program would be unnecessarily cruel and mean, and not something any administration should seek as its legacy.

Thank you for your work in managing our homeland security.

Sincerely,



Rev. Eugene T. Locke



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

NOV 20 2017

Reverend Eugene T. Locke
1275 Bayberry Court
Crozet, Virginia 22932

Dear Reverend Locke:

Thank you for your August 30, 2017 letter to Acting Secretary Duke. The Acting Secretary asked that I respond on her behalf.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Component, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), do not plan on making any further adjustments to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) wind-down policy. With the September 5, 2017 decision to wind down DACA, DHS and USCIS made several points clear:

- 1) The DACA initial process is no longer available to individuals who did not request initial DACA on or before September 5, 2017;
- 2) The DACA renewal process is no longer available to individuals whose DACA expired before September 5, 2017, and whose properly filed renewal request was not received by that date;
- 3) USCIS will consider requests for renewal from individuals whose DACA status expires between September 5, 2017, and March 5, 2018, inclusive, and whose properly filed renewal request was received on or before October 5, 2017; and
- 4) USCIS will consider deadline extensions on a case-by case basis for DACA requests received from residents of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands, due to the lack of communications and infrastructure for a prolonged period of time in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands following Hurricane Maria.

DHS has carefully reviewed the Attorney General's September 4, 2017 letter wherein he advised DHS to rescind the June 15, 2012 Memorandum, "Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children." In that letter, the Attorney General suggested that DHS should consider an "orderly and efficient wind-down process."

Reverend Eugene T. Locke

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To ensure individuals have the information that they need, USCIS will continue to provide updates to its website when appropriate. These updates, along with archived content that may be useful, are located at <https://www.uscis.gov/daca2017>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Francis Cissna". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

L. Francis Cissna
Director