

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 5, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20502

Dear President Trump:

As we enter the third week of a federal government shutdown, it's easy to see why so many Americans are disgusted with politics and politicians. To everyone not infected by partisan politics, the situation is ludicrous. And there's a solution at hand, if politicians stop worrying about which side is "winning" the political fight and deliver results for the people we represent.

Most border wall opponents have pushed to give fair treatment to the estimated 1.8 million non-legal residents (the "Dreamers") who were brought to the U.S. as small children or even babies. These Dreamers have spent virtually their entire lives in the U.S., know no other country as their own, yet have remained in legal limbo while Congress dithers. Last year, then-Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi set the record for the longest speech in U.S. House of Representatives' history on the need for Congress to provide a solution for Dreamers. She was right.

Meanwhile, supporters of the wall cite the pressing need for more security on our nation's borders. They're right, too. There is nothing outrageous about a country knowing who is coming and going through its borders and, like every other sovereign nation, deciding who is eligible to enter. Ninety percent of the heroin that's responsible for killing 300 Americans a week comes across the Southern border. Strengthening the physical border would significantly contribute toward preventing that scourge. And if we want to keep from creating another round of Dreamers living in the legal shadows, we have to secure the entry points into the United States.

The president has asked for \$5 billion to construct a physical barrier. While I will never call \$5 billion a small amount of money, in the context of a \$4.4 trillion federal budget it doesn't seem like a dealbreaker. Until recently, strengthening the U.S. ability to control its borders was something both parties regularly supported without controversy. If calling it money for "the wall" is too much to swallow, call it "enhanced border security." But let's do it, take it off the table, and move on.

As for those residents brought to the U.S. as children, it was actually President Trump who showed an openness to treating them fairly last January when he outlined a proposal where he said "under our plan, those who meet education and work requirements, and show good moral character, will be able to become full citizens of the United States." Many

within the Republican party, including me, have supported serious proposals to finally provide DACA-eligible individuals with legal residency – meaning the ability to live, work and thrive in the U.S. So let's get it done.

But both sides appear to be digging in their heels. A news story from day 14 of the shutdown reported that leaders from both parties would reject a deal that had anything to do with Dreamers or a wall. Well, when extreme elements from both sides oppose a solution, that's often an indicator that it's the right one.

I, for one, didn't come to Congress to play partisan games. Let's sit down and bring it to an end. All it will take is a step out of their ideological corners toward solutions that both parties have supported in the past. If we follow this path, we'll have actually fixed some problems along the way.

Sincerely,



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress

Identical Letters Sent to:

President Donald J. Trump  
Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Majority Leader Steny Hoyer  
Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy