



COALITION ON HUMAN NEEDS

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January 16, 2018

Dear Representative/Senator:

On behalf of the more than one hundred national organizations who are [members](#) of the Coalition on Human Needs, we call upon you to act now to reject the expressions of bigotry and contempt for the vulnerable that should be an affront to every American. You have the power to offer redress by including the clean DREAM Act in the legislation you must enact by January 19 to continue government operations.

The legislative package you adopt must also include the reauthorization of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and other urgently needed health program renewals, and should address the needs of disaster victims in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and elsewhere. Including these measures, as well as an agreement to lift sequester caps no less for domestic than for military programs, is long overdue.

By urging your leadership to immediately finalize agreement on these critically needed measures, and by voting for such a package this week, you will be standing for the highest American ideals of fairness and opportunity, of valuing immigrants who are making a significant contribution to their communities and the nation, and of protecting children and preserving families and communities.

As an elected leader, you can and must show that you reject bigotry by enacting this urgently needed package. The Coalition on Human Needs' members, who represent millions of service providers, people of faith, labor, civil rights, and other advocates across the nation, call upon you to protect the Dreamers, children and families who depend on CHIP, disaster victims, and all of us from a government shutdown. More than one hundred organizations signed a [letter](#) calling upon you to act before end of 2017. With every passing week, more people are harmed. A responsible agreement is there to be made, and we strongly urge you to act.

Sincerely yours,

Deborah Weinstein,
Executive Director

Ellen S. Teller,
Director of Government Affairs
Food Research and Action Center
Chair, Board of Directors,
Coalition on Human Needs