



402 West Broadway, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-3585
p: 619.544.1300

www.sdchamber.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Alison Phillips
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
P: 619-544-1381 C: 805-886-8594
aphillips@sdchamber.org

SAN DIEGO (January 9, 2018) – The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce released the following statement from Vice President of International Business Affairs Paola Avila in response to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and border security legislation proposed by Reps. Will Hurd and Pete Aguilar:

“The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce applauds Reps. Will Hurd and Pete Aguilar on their draft legislation solution for Dreamers and border security. The proposed bipartisan legislation is a viable compromise which addresses concerns from the differing viewpoints on immigration and makes positive strides on border security in a way that does not hamper trade.

“Immigration is crucial to the success of the nation’s economic growth. From our farms to tech companies to main street businesses, Dreamers/immigrants are helping to move our country forward. Here in San Diego, and nationwide, immigrants are expanding our workforce, starting businesses that create jobs, and helping us compete in the global economy. The impact extends far beyond San Diego. Nationwide, there are 1.3 million individuals who are DACA-eligible. The vast majority of them have graduated high school, and more than 90 percent speak English. Collectively, they earn \$19.9 billion in total income each year, and contribute more than \$3 billion to federal, state, and local taxes. Recent data from the Cato Institute estimated that deporting individuals with DACA status would cost the federal government over \$60 billion, with an additional \$280 billion in lost economic growth over the next decade.

“The San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce urges Congress to take action now and seriously consider this well drafted compromise. The future of our national economy depends on it.”

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About the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce

The San Diego Regional Chamber is the hub for connections and collaboration among the regional business community, and uses that clout to advocate for public policies and candidates that support economic growth and the creation of jobs for all businesses. As the largest local Chamber on the West Coast, representing approximately 2,500 businesses and an estimated 300,000 jobs, the San Diego Regional Chamber is fighting to make San Diego the most business-friendly region in California. For more information, please visit SDChamber.org or call 619-544-1300.