



February 10, 2023

The Honorable Richard Durbin
U.S. Senate
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
U.S. Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I write to thank you for your introduction of the Dream Act of 2023. This legislation would allow undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children and meet certain education or work requirements to earn lawful permanent residence. NRF reiterates its support for this bipartisan legislation and looks forward to working with you to achieve its enactment.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. From its headquarters in Washington, D.C., NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$3.9 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 52 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

To refer to this legislation as “long overdue” is to understate the point considerably. For far too long, Congress has failed to do the right thing and adjust the status of law-abiding, tax-paying Americans who have never known adult life anywhere else besides the United States.

NRF has long supported legislation to address the status of these so-called “dreamers,” immigrants who were brought to the country as minors and remain in good legal standing. The legal uncertainty surrounding these men and women, through no fault of their own, makes it challenging for our members to hire them.

While this legislation is an important step in addressing much-needed immigration reform, NRF further encourages Congress to move separate legislation to address the many flaws in our broken immigration system. The current system simply fails to meet our nation's needs. NRF will continue to urge Congress to expand avenues to immigration for high-skilled and low-skilled workers alike.

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NRF members believe now is the time to provide a permanent solution that will bring certainty and stability to the millions of men and women who came to the United States as minors. They have contributed to — and will continue to contribute to — our society, businesses and economy. Congress should provide them with a pathway to lawful permanent residence and ultimately American citizenship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French".

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations