



7521 Main Street, Suite 103  
Omaha, Nebraska 68127

(402) 597-3100 P  
(402) 597-2705 F

[www.voicesforchildren.com](http://www.voicesforchildren.com)

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March 22, 2017

Senator Ebke, Chair – Judiciary Committee  
Room 1113, State Capitol Lincoln NE, 68509

#### **RE: Support for LR 26 – Oppose any federal action that would rescind Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals**

Dear Chair Ebke and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Children are our state's greatest resource, and Nebraska is a state that values strong families and communities. No matter where we were born, all people deserve laws that honor their dignity as a human being. Voices for Children in Nebraska supports LR 26 because it sends the right message that our state stands by *all* of its young Nebraskans and their families.

Protecting the rights of young people who have received Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status is a moral and practical approach to immigration policy. Children do not make decisions about where they are born or where they live, and they should not be penalized for the decisions parents and other adults make on their behalf. The protection of DACA youth is inseparable from the protection of our larger communities. Children in immigrant families make up a significant and growing portion of our state, and the future of Nebraska's economy depends on the education and care that all of our children receive today. The 3,688 young Nebraskans who have already submitted DACA applications to the federal government are an invaluable resource to our state and its workforce, economy, and tax base, particularly as our population continues to age rapidly.

Proposals that threaten the separation and destruction of families are contrary to the values of our state and of our nation. At Voices for Children in Nebraska, we believe how we interact with children and young people at every stage of their life lays the groundwork for who they become later in life. We envision a Nebraska where all kids and families are included, supported, and given every opportunity for healthy development and education, equal access to public support, and justice for their families.

We thank Senator Vargas for his leadership on this issue and urge the committee to advance LR 26.

Sincerely,

Julia Tse