



February 11, 2016

Senator Les Seiler, Chairman – Judiciary Committee
Room 1113, State Capitol Lincoln NE, 68509

Re: Support for LB 947 – State intent relating to professional licenses or commercial licenses for certain aliens

Dear Chairman Seiler and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

The opportunity to find success and productivity in adulthood is something that we all support for our young Nebraskans. Voices for Children supports LB 947 to allow recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to obtain professional or commercial licenses in our state. We believe that children should not be held accountable for the actions of their parents over which they had no control.

DACA recipients were brought to the country as minors and did not have the financial, physical, or emotional independence to consent to this decision. Federal action has allowed these young people to gain legal status in the United States and they should be afforded the same opportunities as their peers. **For many, Nebraska is the only home they have ever known, and their families are already active members of their community and the economy.**

The overwhelming support that LB 623 received in this Legislature last year showed our state's commitment to ensuring that young DACA recipients have the chance to become productive members of our communities. Access to a driver's license was an important first step for many young people in our state that made it easier to get to work, care for family members, or go to school.

LB 947 is an important next step for our state—without access to professional or commercial licenses, many young people in our state who have completed their education or training will be forced to relocate or otherwise discontinue their career path. **Removing this barrier to success for young people living in our state is good policy for families and good policy for our state economy.**

We thank Senator Mello for his leadership on this issue and respectfully urge the committee to advance this bill forward.

Sincerely,

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