Congress: Extend Dreamer protection

Montgomery County Councilmember Tom Hucker has joined with three of his council colleagues and dozens of other local lawmakers from around the nation, urging the county's congressional delegation to quickly protect the thousands of Dreamers who could face deportation this year.

"As County elected officials representing millions of Americans, we write today to share our strong support for continuing the protections afforded under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program," the legislators wrote Jan. 17.

"We urge you to swiftly and comprehensively address federal immigration, and DACA in particular, to protect the legal status of the thousands of Dreamers."

DACA is due to expire in early March under a directive issued by President Trump in September.

The letter continues:

"Dreamers cannot, and should not, live under the ever-present threat of deportation. DACA recipients have passed background checks. They pose no threat. Threatening deportation is not how valued young people in our communities, our constituents who grew up in this country and share our common values, should be treated. They deserve to feel safe and secure in their pursuit of the American Dream. Fixing this, and fixing this now, is the right thing to do."

The letter was sent to Maryland's two U.S. senators, Chris Van Hollen and Ben Cardin, along with Reps. Jamie Raskin (Dist. 8), John Delaney (Dist. 6) and John Sarbanes (Dist. 3).

Also signing the letter were Montgomery County Councilmembers George Leventhal, Nancy Navarro and council President Hans Riemer.

The letter was signed by local legislators from 19 states, including New York, California, North Carolina, Delaware, Missouri, Wisconsin and Florida.

"This letter shows the broad support for Dreamers from across the nation," Hucker said. "Public opinion polls likewise show that most Americans favor extending DACA.

"As much if not more than anywhere else, Montgomery County has a proud tradition of welcoming its immigrants, who every day make outstanding contributions to the community's cultural and economic vibrancy," Hucker said. "Extending DACA is the right, and smart, thing to do."









