

June 19, 2012

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the LGBT community, we applaud your administration's announcement last Friday to halt the deportations of hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth across the United States. This courageous move will allow undocumented youth- including LGBT youth- to remain with their families and work in the country they call home.

Today's news inspires America's future entrepreneurs, educators, and public servants to reach their potential to become successful. Many DREAM-eligible young people, including many immigrant youth leaders, are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Many of these young people, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are building their lives with Americans whom they love and in communities where they add to the greater whole. Your administration's move to protect DREAM-eligible youth from deportation and provide them work authorization will greatly improve the lives of LGBT youth and families.

The new policy will ensure that eligible young people, many of whom have never known any other home than the United States, do not have to live in fear of imminent separation from their family, community, and country.

Thank you for this bold, visionary action.

Immigration Equality
Advocates for Youth
American Civil Liberties Union
Consortium of Higher Education Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Professionals
Family Equality Council
Gay-Straight Alliance Network
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network (GLSEN)
Lambda Legal
LGBT Progress (at the Center for American Progress)
Human Rights Campaign
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
National Stonewall Democrats
PFLAG National (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)