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Council of the Great City Schools
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Supporting the Obama Administration's Immigration Policy

WASHINGTON -- The Council of the Great City Schools strongly supports President Obama's recent decision to allow children and youth who meet the requirements of the DREAM Act to forego removal proceedings or the risk of such proceedings.

The Migration Policy Institute (MPI) estimates that slightly over one million individuals under the age of 30 who were brought to the United States when they were under the age of 16 could be at risk of being deported. In addition, the MPI estimates that about 800,000 of these young people attend k-12 schools in the United States, the only home they know.

Urban public school districts throughout the nation serve the immigrant youth who settle in our cities. The Great City schools are very familiar with the promise and potential of these young people, who came to America with their families for a better life or to escape their war-torn nations, to contribute to the strength and vitality of the United States.

The nation's big-city school districts also know first-hand how fears of deportation dampens the dreams and motivations of young people, who want nothing more than to contribute to the betterment of this country and themselves.

The Obama Administration's decision is a step in the right direction in giving immigrant youth the opportunity to succeed in school, serve in the Armed Forces, and contribute to the nation's global competitiveness and national security—the criteria around which the DREAM Act is defined. We urge the Administration to implement its decision expeditiously, and we recommend that Congress move swiftly to pass the DREAM Act in order to provide the nation's immigrant youth a permanent path to citizenship and the opportunity to become productive citizens.

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