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EXECUTIVES PREPARE PUSH TO DEFEND 'DREAMERS' PROGRAM

At issue is Obama-era program to protect young, illegal immigrants

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Top executives at a range of companies, business groups and academic institutions banded together to voice support for an Obama-era program protecting young, illegal immigrants amid concerns that President Donald Trump could end the policy.

In an [open letter](#), more than 350 executives and other organization leaders urged Mr. Trump and congressional leaders to preserve Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or D.A.C.A., a five-year-old program that offers a reprieve from deportation to nearly 800,000 people brought to the U.S. as children – known as “Dreamers.”

“Dreamers are vital to the future of our companies and our economy,” the letter says. “They are part of why we will continue to have a global competitive advantage.”

The letter was signed by top executives at dozens of tech firms, including [Apple Inc.](#), [Amazon.com Inc.](#) and [Alphabet Inc.](#)'s Google, as well as the chief executives of [General Motors Co.](#) and [Starbucks Corp.](#) and leaders of trade groups, nonprofit groups and investors including Warren Buffett. The effort was coordinated by FWD.us, a pro-immigration lobbying group cofounded by [Facebook Inc.](#) Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg, who also signed the letter.

The White House also has faced pressure to end DACA from critics of the program who complain that it wasn't authorized by Congress and is an overreach of executive authority. A group of conservative states have threatened to sue the administration if it doesn't act to end the program by September 5.

Mr. Trump during the presidential campaign called the program an “unconstitutional executive amnesty,” but softened his stance after he took office. A [White House decision](#) on the program could come this week, The Wall Street Journal reported last Friday. White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said at a press briefing Thursday that a final decision concerning D.A.C.A. hasn't been made.

Some U.S. business leaders have become more vocal with objections to Trump administration policies in the wake of events including the president's pullout from the Paris Climate Accord and his comments in reaction to violent protests in Charlottesville, Va.

Technology CEOs, in particular, have pressed Mr. Trump to support immigration policies that help more foreign workers stay in the country. The leaders of [Apple](#), Alphabet Inc.'s Google, and other tech giants in February filed a joint amicus brief opposing Mr. Trump's travel ban on Muslim-majority nations. Tech executives also voiced objection in June when the administration decided to delay an Obama-era regulation that would have helped more foreign-born entrepreneurs build startups in the U.S. without a traditional visa.

Ending the D.A.C.A. program could lead to the deportation of important members of the future workforce of the U.S., the executives argue in the new letter.

In a separate blog post on Thursday, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella shared his concern about the D.A.C.A. program's potential repeal. An Indian-born immigrant to the U.S., Mr. Nadella credits his success in part to an "the enlightened immigration policy that allowed me to pursue my dreams." Mr. Nadella also signed Thursday's letter.

Uber, which appointed Iranian-born Dara Khosrowshahi as its new CEO this week, said in a statement that Dreamers deserve to stay in the U.S.

"Their contributions make America more competitive and they deserve the opportunity to work, study, and pursue the American dream," an Uber spokesman said.