



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE UNITED STATES

June 19, 2018

To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

From: Chris Carson, President

Re: Protect Dreamers and Preserve Families

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Burbank, California

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*Chief Executive Officer
(Interim)*
Anisa Tootla

The League of Women Voters urges the U.S. House of Representatives to oppose HR. 4760, the Securing America's Future Act of 2018, and the Ryan compromise legislation that is scheduled to be considered this week. Neither of these pieces of legislation advance our country's immigration system, protect Dreamers or preserve families.

Yet again, the House is missing another opportunity to pass the bipartisan Dream Act in favor of highly partisan measures. Congress continues to put hundreds of thousands of young immigrants at risk by holding them hostage in order to move legislation forward that dismantles our immigration system. It should be a priority to protect the hundreds of thousands of dreamers who pay taxes, contribute to social security, and who are Americans in everything but name. By allowing a vote on two politically motivated pieces of legislation, the U.S. House is proving once again that they are standing in the way of finding a solution to protect young immigrant people.

Standing with Dreamers means standing with the children that are being ripped from their parents' arms and put in detention. It means standing against increased enforcement aimed at criminalizing immigrants. It means being proactive in seeking oversight of rogue DHS agencies, and looking for solutions that protect our families

The League believes that we should have reasonable protections in place at our borders. However, those protections should not include detention centers where young people are held after forcibly being separated from their parents. It is the duty and responsibility of this Congress to act swiftly and end the practice of separating families at our U.S. borders. We must treat those wishing to come to this country with dignity and resist the urge to militarize the border, criminalize immigrants or threaten the right of due process for all persons. The current practice of separating families at our borders violates our human rights and moral responsibilities.

Moving the Ryan and Goodlatte bills forward is not in our national interest. As a country of immigrants, we are made stronger by our diversity. The proposals in front of you are bad for our country. Neither will provide a permanent fix for DACA recipients, preserve our families or maintain reasonable border security.

The League of Women Voters asks you to vote **NO** on the Goodlatte bill and **NO** on the Ryan compromise.