

To whom it may concern,

My name is Lucia del Carmen Alonso Nino, I came to this country as a child and since then my life has changed for the better. I was only 7 years old when I came to this country, my mother made what I see as today, one of the hardest decisions any mother would have to make. She decided to leave behind everything she knew as home and familiar to give me the opportunity of a better life. At such a young age I did not know the magnitude of her brave decision, I was just a child following her mother not knowing truly how this journey would change my life as I knew it. Almost thirty two years have passed since that decision was made and I cannot thank my mother enough for making that decision for me.

Living in this country has opened many doors for me that would have otherwise never have been an option had I stayed in Mexico. And even though there have been many great things that came with living in this country, once I was an adult I realized something was not ok. I realized I could not have the same benefits my siblings who were born here had because of the simple fact that I was not born here like they were. It was not until DACA that I felt a sense of belonging, a sense of safety, a feeling I had never felt before. DACA opened many professional opportunities for me, I was able to work, get my driver's license, I was able to walk around without fear, which is priceless.

DACA is an amazing program that I feel so blessed to be able to be a part of, but like with everything, it is not perfect. Knowing that DACA has been under attack many times does put a big strain on feeling safe and secure, knowing I may not be able to work and live in the only place that feels like home is very scary. This country has been home to me and will always be home, DACA just puts a seal of safety around the feeling. I am hoping that one day DACA is a pathway to permanent legal status and I will never again have to worry about that privilege being taken away from me. DACA has been such an instrumental part of my growth as a professional, mother and overall human being, the sense that I can provide for my family is something that I take great pride in.

I hope to be able to see the day where DREAMERS are accepted as part of this great country and we are allowed to live worry free and become legal US residents and can continue to contribute to this great nation.

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Lucia Alonso

"There is no greater Warrior, than a Mother protecting her child."

N. K. Jemisin