Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2015

Honorable Pete Sessions
Chairman
Committee on Rules
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

During the House Armed Services Committee markup of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2016, Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) offered an amendment that encourages the Secretary of Defense to declare that illegal aliens granted deferred action and work permits under the unconstitutional Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) amnesty program are "vital" to America's national interest. This would have the effect of making them eligible to enlist in the U.S. Armed Forces even though they are in the country unlawfully and our military is in the process of downsizing troop levels. The amendment passed on a 33–30 vote.

The House of Representatives has voted to defund DACA three times: June 2013, August 2014, and in this Congress in January 2015. The language contained in Rep. Gallego's amendment contradicts the House's previous position and is a severe threat to the passage of the NDAA—legislation which funds the essential programs that America's military requires. Especially in this time of increased terrorism, our national security should not be threatened by allowing such controversial language on a program we have rejected three times as unconstitutional.

If the Rules Committee does not strike Rep. Gallego's controversial DACA provision (§ 538), we will offer an amendment to strike the language. This controversial immigration language greatly increases the risk of the NDAA's failure to pass the House. The Rules Committee has the power, and indeed the duty, to prevent such a threat to our national security. Therefore, we urge you to strip § 538 from the NDAA.

Sincerely,

Mo Brooks

MO BROOKS
Member of Congress

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