



One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
245 Murray Lane SW
Washington, DC 20258

Dear Secretary Kelly:

I write to express my strong support for Daniela Vargas, my constituent, who is currently detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). I urge you, as Secretary, to ensure the Department of Homeland Security exercises available discretion and looks upon her case favorably.

On March 1, 2017, Daniela was arrested by ICE agents shortly after participating in a press conference hosted by local immigration advocates in Jackson, Mississippi. She was brought to the United States from Argentina as a young child, was a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipient, and has a pending DACA renewal application. She has been an excellent student, is a hard worker who has consistently paid her taxes, and has no criminal record. Members of the Jackson community are supporting her wholeheartedly. Indeed, Daniela is the kind of young person who, as President Trump put it, should be treated with "great heart."

Therefore, I am requesting that Daniela be released from detention while her case proceeds. I would also ask that any pending application for immigration benefits, including her DACA renewal, be expeditiously reviewed and favorably considered by your Department. Young people like Daniela are an important part of communities all over this country, and deserve a chance to pursue their American dream.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member

cc: Thomas D. Homan, Acting Director, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
Lori Scialabba, Acting Director, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services