



The Society for the Study of Social Problems

Publishers of the Journal *Social Problems*

901 McClung Tower University of Tennessee Knoxville, TN 37996-0490
Phone: 865-689-1531 Fax: 865-689-1534 E-mail: sssp@utk.edu
www.sssp1.org

OFFICERS (2019-2020)

Heather M. Dalmage, Ph.D.
Roosevelt University
President

Corey Dolgon, Ph.D.
Stonchill College
President-Elect

Nancy J. Mezey, Ph.D.
Monmouth University
Past-President

Daina Cheyenne Harvey, Ph.D.
College of the Holy Cross
Vice-President

Pamela Anne Quiroz, Ph.D.
University of Houston
Vice-President-Elect

Glenn W. Muschert, Ph.D.
Khalifa University of Science & Technology
Secretary

Susan M. Carlson, Ph.D.
Western Michigan University
Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maralee Mayberry, Ph.D. (2020)
University of South Florida

Fernando I. Rivera, Ph.D. (2020)
University of Central Florida

Yvonne A. Braun, Ph.D. (2021)
University of Oregon

Matthew W. Hughey, Ph.D. (2021)
University of Connecticut

Debbie A. Potter, Ph.D. (2021)
University of Louisville

Giovanna Follo, Ph.D. (2022)
Wright State University

Bhoomi K. Thakore, Ph.D. (2022)
University of Central Florida

Apoorva Ghosh, Student (2020)
University of California, Irvine

Melissa R. Maxey, Student (2021)
University of Oklahoma

Kristen M. Budd, Ph.D. (2021)
Miami University
Ex-Officio, Chairperson, Council of the Divisions

Annulla Linders, Ph.D. (2021)
University of Cincinnati
*Co-Editor of *Social Problems**

Earl Wright II, Ph.D. (2021)
University of Cincinnati
*Co-Editor of *Social Problems**

EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
University of La Verne (Emeritus)

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Michele Smith Koontz
University of Tennessee
Administrative Officer & Meeting Manager

Kelsey Whitaker
University of Tennessee
Assistant to the Administrative Officer

Rachel Cogburn
University of Tennessee
Information Technology Specialist

Zaina Shams
University of Tennessee
Graduate Research Associate & Webmaster

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer, Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leaders McConnell, McCarthy and Schumer:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), one of the oldest and most respected social science organizations in the United States, with members from around the world. We are among nearly 40 signatories to a letter drafted by the American Sociological Association (ASA), requesting additional funds for the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, with a focus on students and institutions hit hardest by COVID-19. In addition to this request, we are writing to urge you to add Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to the list of recipients of this much-needed aid. As you know, the Department of Education issued a directive to colleges and universities to deny Dreamers or DACA recipients this grant money.

Dreamers represent the best in our society and must meet a series of strict criteria to remain in the United States – where they have grown up. Dreamers contribute an estimated \$42 billion to the GDP, nearly \$2 billion in state and local taxes, and nearly \$6 billion in federal taxes, every year.* It is estimated that our country will lose over \$92 million in federal tax revenue over a 10-year period if DACA recipients are unable to remain in the country. As consumers, they spend nearly \$24.1 billion, and contribute nearly \$2 billion to Social Security, and pay \$470 million into Medicare, annually.

All DACA recipients have lived in the United States at least 10 years and many much longer. They have received their entire education, including degrees from universities, in the United States. 96% of Dreamers are working or in school, and 6% have started their own businesses (and thereby employ workers). 14% have purchased their own home and pay an estimated \$380 million in property taxes every year. They work as nurses, teachers, and engineers, and they play on sports teams with children of and worship next to citizens of the United States – their neighbors. In virtually every conceivable way they are Americans.

There is nothing in the Act that excludes these individuals. Had the intent been to exclude them, their exclusion would have been explicit. (And had they been excluded, explicitly, we would still urge you to include them.) In fact, several

Congressional leaders asked Secretary DeVos, as we do, to reverse her directive. Senator Patty Murray, the ranking Democrat on the Senate committee, and Representative Rosa DeLauro, wrote the following, "When we drafted emergency legislation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress did not place limitations on which students could or should get emergency aid -- we simply directed the Secretary and institutions to make funds available to students." Meanwhile, the Attorney General of Washington and the California Community Colleges System have filed lawsuits against the Department.

We urge you to provide these amazing young people with the help they desperately need. In the long run, we as a country, will benefit enormously from this investment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Héctor L. Delgado', with a stylized, cursive script.

Héctor L. Delgado, Ph.D.
Executive Officer
Society for the Study of Social Problems

*The data are from fwd.us (<https://www.fwd.us/news/daca-facts/>), a bipartisan political organization, founded by a group of politically and ideologically diverse business and tech leaders, committed to meaningful economic, political, and social reforms, including immigration reform.