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RANKING MEMBER



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June 9, 2017

Thomas D. Homan
Acting Director
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20536-5600

Dear Acting Director Homan,


I write to echo the concerns of my state and local colleagues regarding the removal of Diego Puma of Ossining, New York. Diego is a teenager and a few months away from receiving his high school diploma. A productive and contributing member of our community, his only crime was being brought to the United States as a minor by a parent.

I write to request a stay of removal from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Diego has significant ties to his community, has continuously lived in the United States since he was a minor, and genuinely fears for his safety and well-being if returned to Ecuador.

While Diego's case is of the utmost importance to me, his removal proceedings speak to a larger issue emerging in our country. Increased enforcement action of non-violent offenders, especially targeted at children like Diego, have a chilling effect on the critical relationships between immigrant communities and law enforcement which will make us less safe. ICE should focus its enforcement action on felonious adults, not children and students..

I look forward to your response and thank you for your timely attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,


Nita M. Lowey