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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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3D DISTRICT, FLORIDA

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June 30th, 2009

The Honorable John T. Morton
Assistant Secretary
United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
500 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20536
Re: Walter Enrique Lara, A88-848-500

Dear Assistant Secretary Morton:

This past week my office staff met a young man who has lived in this country since he was brought here by his parents from Argentina when he was three years old named Walter Lara. Walter grew up in Miami, Florida, went to public schools in Miami-Dade county, and graduated from high school with a 4.7 grade point average and 1,000 hours of community service.

Like many studious young students today, Walter wanted to go to college, yet the University of Central Florida denied him admission because of his immigration status. Thereafter, he settled on Miami-Dade College, and graduated with Honors with a 3.7 Grade Point Average.

He later went to work as a computer technician, yet this past February, while he was on his way to do an in-home repair, he was apprehended by U.S. immigration officers and held for three weeks. Walter now awaits deportation to Argentina, and is scheduled to leave on July 6th.

In response, I introduced a private bill on his behalf. It seems clear to me that Mr. Walter Lara is a hard working, studious young man, who would like nothing more than to be given the chance to remain in the United States and become a productive member of our country. As a supporter of the DREAM Act (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors), introduced by Howard Berman in the House of Representatives, I know that there are many other recent high school graduates (approximately 60,000 per year) who are in similar predicaments as Walter. After investing a large amount of resources in these students' primary education, it seems senseless to allow their potential to go to waste and deny them the opportunity to pursue a higher education.

I respectfully request that you defer action on Walter's deportation; indeed, he has earned the chance to live and work in the United States and calls our country his home. Please contact me or my legislative assistant, David Simon, at (202) 225-0123 before July 6th. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this urgent matter.

I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Corrine Brown". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "C" at the beginning.

Corrine Brown
Member of Congress