

September 12, 2017

Representative Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Room H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-230, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Room S-221, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

Last week, the Trump administration rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy that provided temporary protection for the “Dreamers,” outstanding young people brought to our country as children. On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write to urge Congress to pass legislation as soon as possible to permanently protect these individuals.

At present, nearly 800,000 individuals are registered under DACA. To qualify, applicants must have passed a rigorous, multi-faceted test. They must have arrived in the United States before age 16, resided here continuously since 2012, be enrolled in or have completed high school, have not been convicted of a crime, and not present a threat to national security or public safety. The United States is the only country they know: They are Americans, just like their classmates and friends, in every way but immigration status.

Preserving their status is the humane way to respond to the situation these innocent young people are facing. Children brought to the United States at a young age did not have a choice in the matter. It remains in America’s best interest to enable them to use their knowledge, skills and energy to make the strongest possible contribution to our country.

These bright and talented young people are working, serving in the armed services, or studying at colleges and universities. Because they now have work permits, they are making contributions to our society and our economy. They are paying taxes and buying cars, homes and consumer goods, which generates economic activity and increases tax revenue for federal, state and local governments. While they contribute significantly to our economy, they are ineligible for federal means-tested welfare benefits, Pell Grants and federal student loans, and health care tax subsidies. According to a recent study by the CATO Institute, deporting those currently in DACA would cost over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.

In the 16 years since the Dream Act was first introduced, a number of bills have been introduced in Congress to address the uncertain status of these individuals, including various versions of the Dream Act, which the higher education community has long supported. We urge Congress to

pass bipartisan legislation as soon as possible that will include all the protections currently provided under DACA and allow these young people to continue contributing to our society and economy by working, serving in the military or attending college.

Colleges and universities have seen these remarkable people up close, in our classrooms and as our colleagues and friends. Despite the challenges they face, they have made an incredible mark on our country and economy. They should continue to be able to do so. If we are unable to protect these Dreamers, we will be shutting the door to an entire generation of individuals who only seek to contribute their best to America. We stand ready to work with Congress in a bipartisan manner to address this issue as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell  
President

CC: United States Senate  
United States House of Representatives

On behalf of:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges  
Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
ACPA—College Student Educators International  
ACT  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American College Health Association  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
American Psychological Association  
APPA, Leadership in Educational Facilities  
Association for Biblical Higher Education  
Association for Student Conduct Administration  
Association of American Colleges & Universities  
Association of American Law Schools  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of College and University Housing Officers- International  
Association of College Unions International  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Independent Colleges of Art & Design  
Association of International Education Administrators  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Teacher Educators  
Career Education Colleges and Universities  
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources  
Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities in New York  
Commission on Institutions of Higher Education, New England Association of Schools and Colleges  
Conference for Mercy Higher Education  
Consortium on Financing Higher Education  
Council for Adult and Experiential Learning  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council on Social Work Education  
Educational Testing Service  
EDUCAUSE  
Graduate Management Admission Council  
Great Lakes Colleges Association  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Institute for Higher Education Policy  
Joint National Committee for Languages–National Council for Language and International Studies  
Law School Admission Council  
Mennonite Education Agency  
Middle States Commission on Higher Education  
Modern Language Association  
NAFSA-Association of International Educators  
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Adult Learner Coalition  
National Association for Campus Activities  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of College Stores  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

National Association of System Heads  
National Collegiate Athletic Association  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
National Council of University Research Administrators  
Network of ELCA Colleges and Universities  
NODA-Association for Orientation, Transition and Retention in Higher Education  
Online Learning Consortium  
Society for College and University Planning  
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
The College Board  
UNCF  
University Professional and Continuing Education Association  
WASC Senior College and University Commission  
Yes We Must Coalition