

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write in support of the bills being considered this week by the House Judiciary Committee: H.R. 2820, the *Dream Act of 2019* and H.R. 2821, the *American Promise Act of 2019*.

The *Dream Act of 2019* would allow some undocumented young people, high-achieving individuals who contribute to our nation's economy and security, to earn lawful permanent residence in the United States and a path to citizenship. Brought to our country as children, many of these "Dreamers" do not even remember the country they came from and consider America to be their only home.

The bill focuses on the special case of talented and productive young people who came to this country because of the actions of their parents. They are educated, English-speaking, and grew up with American values and traditions, making them American in every way except for their immigration status. But these outstanding individuals are forced to live in an unacceptable political and legal limbo. They work and pay taxes. They serve in the military and teach in our schools. And tens of thousands of Dreamers have or are striving to earn a college degree.

In October 2017, the American Council on Education submitted a letter to Congress signed by more than 800 college and university presidents urging Congress to pass a permanent legislative solution protecting Dreamers. Similar support has been expressed by hundreds of business and industry leaders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Protecting Dreamers is popular among the general public as well. A June 2018 Gallup survey found that 83 percent of Americans, including 75 percent of Republicans, favor or strongly favor allowing Dreamers the chance to become U.S. citizens.

Finally, the *American Promise Act of 2019* would also extend protections to immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) who have seen their status terminated and left in uncertain limbo. Many of our institutions also have students and employees who have lived, worked, and studied while under TPS and DED, and we support the efforts to include protections for this population in this legislation.

When the president revoked DACA in September 2017, he called on lawmakers to pass legislation to protect Dreamers. It is clear that in Congress, and across the nation, there is

widespread and bipartisan support for doing just that. We strongly urge you to advance this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "T" and a cursive "M".

Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
National Association of Independent Colleges & Universities