



Leadership and Advocacy

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February 5, 2018

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

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

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

The Honorable 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:

A month from today, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy will end. When it does, hundreds of thousands of bright and talented young people are at risk of being deported from the only country they have called home.

When the Trump administration announced Sept. 5 it was rescinding DACA, the president granted a six month delay in order for Congress to pass legislation to provide a permanent solution. Last week, President Trump proposed that Congress approve a fix that would extend legal status to 1.8 million Dreamers, including all of those who have been enrolled in DACA, and provide them with a pathway to citizenship.

As Congress faces a deadline this week to pass funding legislation and keep the government open, we urge lawmakers not to lose sight of the need to adopt legislation providing permanent legal status for DACA registrants and Dreamers, as the president and a number of lawmakers on both sides of the aisle have proposed.

For over a decade, we have advocated for a long-term legislative fix for Dreamers. Following the rescission of DACA last year, more than 800 college and university presidents urged lawmakers to take action to protect DACA registrants, as did nearly 80 higher education associations.

These outstanding individuals are Americans in every way but immigration status, and are making countless positive contributions to our nation. They are our students and colleagues; they are teachers, health-care professionals, and police officers; and they are serving in our military. They have been living in fear and uncertainty for far too long. We would not tolerate any other segment of our population, let alone a group of such high-achieving individuals as the DACA beneficiaries, being left in limbo this way.

There is widespread bipartisan support for protecting Dreamers and we urge you to find a bipartisan solution. It is unacceptable for these young people to be held hostage to other issues.

The time to act is now.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Council on Education
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NASPA- Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

Cc: U.S. Senate
U.S. House of Representatives