

February 15, 2018

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

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Room S-221, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the undersigned higher education associations, we write in support of bipartisan legislation being considered in the Senate that would grant legal status to 1.8 million Dreamers.

The amendments offered by Senators McCain and Coons and by another group that includes Senators Rounds, King, Collins, Manchin, Graham, and Kaine have the best chance of passage along bipartisan lines. Both would allow Dreamers to pursue their lives with certainty and stability, providing them with a long-term permanent solution. These amendments represent reasonable compromises by both sides of the aisle.

As leaders in the higher education community, we have seen Dreamers up close on many of our campuses. These amendments underscore the broad, bipartisan commitment, as well as the overwhelming support from the American public, to creating a path to citizenship for these outstanding Dreamers who were brought to this country illegally through no decision of their own.

For over a decade, we have advocated for a long-term legislative fix for Dreamers. And 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.

We urge you not to let this opportunity pass. We respectfully request you support legislation that protects these outstanding individuals, who are Americans in every way but immigration status, and are making countless positive contributions to our nation.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

cc: United States Senate

On behalf of:

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
American Council on Education
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration