

November 17, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Room H-305, The Capitol Room
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

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

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, we write to urge Congress to pass legislation to provide permanent protection for Dreamers—young, undocumented, high-achieving individuals brought to our country as children—during the last weeks of the 117th Congress. Recent court rulings against the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects hundreds of thousands of eligible Dreamers, underscore the urgency for Congress to protect Dreamers, who have been living in continuous uncertainty.

Recent decisions by a Texas federal district court and by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals declaring the DACA program illegal have left some Dreamers in a devastating legal limbo. While these recent court decisions allow current DACA recipients to renew their status for now, Congress must pass legislation to protect them and the many other Dreamers who are not DACA-eligible.

As you know, Dreamers contribute substantially to the U.S. economy. According to Cato Institute estimates, deporting those with DACA protection would cost over \$92.9 billion in lost tax revenue and would cost the U.S. economy over \$351 billion over the next decade.¹ Colleges and universities have seen these remarkable people up close, in our classrooms and as our colleagues and friends. Despite the challenges they face, Dreamers have made incredible contributions to our country and its economy and security. If we are unable to protect them, we will be shutting the door to an entire generation of individuals who wish to be part of our American story.

Since 2001, we have seen bipartisan efforts to pass legislation to protect Dreamers. In Congress and across the nation, there is widespread and bipartisan support for doing just that. We strongly urge Congress to take action in the 117th Congress to protect Dreamers.

¹ <https://www.cato.org/publications/working-paper/new-estimate-cost-reversing-daca>

Respectfully,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream

ACPA-College Student Educators International

ACT

American Association of Colleges and Universities

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 Association of Veterinary Medical Colleges

American Council on Education

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

American Psychological Association

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of American Universities

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges

Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities

Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Rhode Island

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities

Association of Research Libraries

Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions

Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health

Campus Compact

Career Education Colleges and Universities

Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities

College and University Professional Association for Human Resources

Common App

Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges

Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area

Council for Advancement and Support of Education

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Council for Higher Education Accreditation

Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
EDUCAUSE
EnglishUSA
ETS
Great Lakes Colleges Association
Higher Education Consultants Association
Higher Learning Commission
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
New England Commission of Higher Education
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities
Phi Beta Kappa Society
Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration
Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges
Tennessee Independent Colleges and Universities Association
UPCEA
WASC Senior College and University Commission