

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi and Schumer:

I write on behalf of the 400 member institutions of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) to ask for immediate congressional action to prevent the humanitarian disaster that the President's decision to terminate the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will trigger in six months.

As you are already aware, more than 800,000 young people who were brought to the United States as children, who grew up here as our friends and neighbors, and who are indistinguishable from other Americans except for their Kafkaesque undocumented status are now facing the nightmarish prospect of being expelled from the country they know and love. These individuals are in no way culpable for the circumstances in which they find themselves, and most of them have little or no knowledge of the "home" countries to which they may be deported. DACA participants, "Dreamers," relied on the federal government's good faith in stepping out of the shadows and providing their information to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the President's termination of the program now threatens them with mass deportations.

The President has put the ball in Congress's court, and the time for Congressional leadership and action is now. We urge you to act expeditiously to resolve the unnecessary pain and suffering of Dreamers by creating a reasonable path to legalization. We stand ready to assist you with this historic and urgent task and thank you in advance.

Sincerely,



Muriel A. Howard, Ph.D.
President