

September 6, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

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

For the past five years, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has provided Dreamers with the ability to go to school and work without fear of deportation. The President's recent action to end DACA erases the path for these students to reach the American Dream. Congress can—and must—address the issue.

Nearly 800,000 individuals across America now have temporary protection from deportation because of DACA. Ninety-seven percent of them are either in school or employed.<sup>1</sup> One-fifth are enrolled in institutions of higher education. Another third are in high school and considering their options for postsecondary education and training. And 5 percent of DACA students already have completed their bachelor's degree, with many more on track to do so.<sup>2</sup>

These students are an integral part of our communities and our education system. They are just as deserving of opportunities to access higher education as all other students. It is immoral for us as a country to turn our back on these individuals, many of whom have never known any country but the United States.

Ending DACA also is unwise from an economic standpoint. DACA will increase the number of individuals with a postsecondary degree or credential, thus increasing the number of people who are prepared for the workforce and to contribute to our nation's prosperity.

Congress is coequal to the Executive branch in our federal government. As Members, you can take moral leadership and provide DACA recipients with relief from fears of deportation. You can ensure that the doors leading to opportunity and the American Dream remain open for all people.

We call upon you, immediately, to take up and pass the Dream Act, a bipartisan, bicameral bill that would offer protection to these young people and allow them to take part in our economy and society. That is the only appropriate response to President Trump's announcement.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/education-and-work-profiles-daca-population>

Our higher education system is stronger because of DACA. Our economy will be stronger because of DACA. The future of our country will be stronger because of the action you take on DACA. We urge you to work swiftly to protect DACA recipients.

Sincerely,

10,000 Degrees  
Achieve Atlanta  
Active Advocacy Coalition  
Advocates for Youth  
Alliance for Youth Action  
The American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Federation of Teachers  
AVID Center  
Cal State Student Association  
The Campaign for College Opportunity  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Chicago Urban League  
College Bound St. Louis  
College Forward  
College Now Greater Cleveland  
College Possible  
CollegeTracks  
Consumer Action  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Democrats for Education Reform  
Denver Scholarship Foundation  
Education Opens Doors  
The Education Trust  
*Excelencia* in Education  
First Graduate  
Generation Progress  
Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce  
HCM Strategists  
Higher Ed, Not Debt  
Higher Learning Advocates  
iMentor  
Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)  
Jobs for the Future  
Kids in Common, a program of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte  
Latino U College Access  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce  
Los Angeles Community College District  
Metropolitan State University Denver

NAACP  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
New America Education Policy Program  
OneGoal  
One Wisconsin Now  
PHENOM (Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts)  
Roosevelt Network  
The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis  
Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Southern California College Access Network  
St. Louis Graduates  
Student Debt Crisis  
Students for Education Reform  
Teach For America  
Tennessee College Access and Success Network  
The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS)  
uAspire  
United States Student Association (USSA)  
University of California Student Association  
Wyman Center  
Yes We Must Coalition  
Young Invincibles