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August 4, 2021

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Room 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 underscore the urgent need for Congress to provide permanent legal protections for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients and all Dreamers. This is especially important in the wake of the July 16 ruling by U.S. District Judge Andrew S. Hanen that the use of executive authority to create the DACA policy was illegal, and that "the proper origination point for the DACA program was, and is, Congress."

The higher education community has long joined with the business community and a broad cross section of other groups across the country in advocating for Dreamers. In September 2019, the two-year anniversary of the previous administration's attempted rescission of DACA, [over 600 of our member colleges and universities called on Congress to act](#). This ruling has brought a new urgency, as it has halted new applications for DACA and increased the uncertainty for existing DACA registrants. Only Congress can, once and for all, end the unacceptable legal and political limbo Dreamers—the young, undocumented, high-achieving individuals brought to our country as children—have been so unfairly and unnecessarily placed in for so long.

We have seen these remarkable people up close on our campuses as our students, colleagues, and friends. They work and pay taxes. They serve in the military, teach in our schools, and have served on the front lines of the pandemic as healthcare workers. And tens of thousands of Dreamers have earned or are striving to earn a college degree in institutions across the country. They consider the United States to be their only home. Despite the challenges they face, Dreamers have made incredible contributions to our country and its economy and security. We cannot now shut the door to an entire generation of individuals who seek to contribute their best to America.

We respectfully urge you to address this challenge and to do so quickly. There is widespread and bipartisan support from Main Street to Wall Street to Capitol Hill for taking swift action to protect Dreamers. We are eager to work with Congress in a bipartisan manner to address this issue as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges
Achieving the Dream
ACPA-College Student Educators International
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education
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 College Health Association
American Council on Education
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania
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 in Massachusetts
Association of Independent Colleges and University 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
Common App
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
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
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
EnglishUSA
ETS
Great Lakes Colleges Association
Higher Education Consultants Association
Higher Learning Commission
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
Independent Colleges of Washington
Middle States Commission on Higher Education
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
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
National Association of System Heads
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
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
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UPCEA
WASC Senior College & University Commission
Wisconsin Association of Independent Colleges and Universities