

December 15, 2017

The Honorable Scott Taylor
U.S. House of Representatives
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Newhouse
U.S. House of Representatives
1318 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Taylor and Representative Newhouse,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, we write to thank you and the co-signers for your Dec. 5 letter to Speaker Ryan asking that Congress pass a permanent legislative solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients before the end of the year. We applaud your leadership on this issue and urge you to continue to work toward the action that President Trump requested when he rescinded the DACA policy: approve a long-term legislative fix as soon as possible to protect Dreamers, those outstanding young people brought to our country as children. We would be pleased to work with you on this effort.

Colleges and universities have seen these remarkable individuals up close, in our classrooms and as our colleagues and friends. Despite the challenges they face, they have made incredible contributions to our country and its economy and security. They should continue to be able to do so. If we are unable to protect these Dreamers, we will be shutting the door to an entire generation of individuals who seek to contribute their best to America.

On Oct. 19, 2017, we sent a letter signed by over 800 college and university presidents and chancellors to leaders of Congress urging action on this issue as soon as possible. In that letter, we noted that the Dreamers, who were brought to the United States at a young age, did not have a choice in the matter and are today Americans in every way but immigration status. It remains in America's best interest to enable them to use their knowledge, skills, and energy to continue to make the strongest possible contribution to our country.

The longer Congress takes to act, the harder it becomes for these individuals to continue their studies, work at their jobs, or serve in the military. For both practical and humanitarian reasons, Congress should act promptly to address this issue, and certainly well before the March 5, 2018, deadline. In order to do that, we ask that you consider a long-term solution for Dreamers as you work to finalize the FY 2018 appropriations process. We stand ready to support and help you and your congressional colleagues address this issue in a bipartisan manner.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

ACPA—College Student Educators International
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American Association of University Professors
American Council on Education
American Indian Higher Education Consortium
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of American Law Schools
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 Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
EDUCAUSE
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
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 Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of System Heads
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
Thurgood Marshall College Fund
UNCF

Cc: The Honorable Mia Love
The Honorable Mark Amodei
The Honorable David G. Valadao
The Honorable Dave Reichert
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
The Honorable Mike Coffman
The Honorable Charlie Dent
The Honorable Frank A. LoBiondo
The Honorable Peter T. King
The Honorable Carlos Curbelo

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
The Honorable Ryan A. Costello
The Honorable Fred Upton
The Honorable Jeff Denham
The Honorable Rodney Davis
The Honorable John J. Faso
The Honorable John Katko
The Honorable Chris Stewart
The Honorable Susan W. Brooks
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
The Honorable Glenn “GT” Thompson
The Honorable Mike Simpson
The Honorable Mimi Walters
The Honorable Leonard Lance
The Honorable Pat Meehan
The Honorable Elise Stefanik
The Honorable Tom MacArthur
The Honorable Chris Smith
The Honorable Jenniffer González-Colón
The Honorable Joe Barton
The Honorable Will Hurd
The Honorable Bruce Poliquin