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O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S

August 30, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As your administration continues to assess the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program, on behalf of the undersigned national higher education associations and Hispanic organizations, we strongly urge you to keep the DACA program in place and to work with Congress to find a long-term solution.

You have previously stated that "we're going to work something out that's going to make people happy and proud." Similarly, you have indicated that you are sympathetic to these "young, intelligent individuals," and that your administration "will deal with DACA with heart." Many congressional leaders, on both sides of the aisle, have echoed these sentiments as well. And the vast majority of the American people support your stated aims. We hope you will keep those heartfelt sentiments in mind as your administration reviews the DACA program and decides on its continuation and ultimate future.

To date, more than 800,000 individuals have registered with the DACA program. To qualify for DACA, applicants must pass a rigorous background check, have arrived in the U.S. before the age of 16, have lived in the U.S. continuously since 2007, have not been convicted of a serious crime, be enrolled in a U.S. high school or have obtained a diploma/GED certificate from one, or be an honorably discharged veteran of the military. DACA recipients were brought to this country at a young age without a choice in the matter.

If the program is terminated, the more than 800,000 DACA participants will be immediately impacted. Even if the decision is to stop DACA renewals instead, an estimated 70,000 individuals per month would lose their eligibility. If they are deported, it would cost over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue as well as reduced economic growth across the country of \$280 billion over the next ten years. Ending the DACA program would negatively impact our nation's economic growth without significantly improving the immigration situation.

The nation as a whole greatly benefits from the education and/or employment of regularized DACA recipients. They should be able to make their full contribution as tax-payers, professionals, skilled workers, and leaders in areas of critical importance to the nation's economy and security. To address current workforce challenges, the U.S. needs to draw on the skills and energy of all immigrants, particularly those who have demonstrated the commitment and determination to excel.

Once again we strongly urge you to preserve the DACA program and to work with Congress to reach a long-term solution that will allow these hard-working and model individuals to continue contributing to our nation's prosperity.

Sincerely,



Antonio R. Flores
President & CEO

Additional organizations signing on to this letter:

ACT

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education

American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO)

American Association of State Colleges and Universities

American Federation of Teachers (AFT)

American GI Forum of the US

American Indian Higher Education Consortium

APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"

ASPIRA Association

Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)

Association of Community College Trustees

Association of Governing Boards (AGB)

Association of Jesuit Colleges & Universities

Association of Research Libraries

Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network

Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute

Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU)

Council for Opportunity in Education

EDUCAUSE

Farmworker Justice

GreenLatinos

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Inter-University Program for Latino Research

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

LatinoJustice PRLDEF

League of United Latin American Citizens

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Mi Familia Vota

NAFSA: Association of International Educators

NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

National Association for Bilingual Education

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)

National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities

National Association of Latino Arts and Cultures

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

National Council for Community and Education Partnerships

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Latina/o Psychological Association

National Migrant & Seasonal Head Start Association

Presente.org

Public Advocacy for Kids

SER Jobs for Progress National Inc.

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

TESOL International Association

The Council of Graduate Schools

UnidosUS (formerly NCLR)

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

UPCEA-University Professional and Continuing Education Association

Voto Latino