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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