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February 22, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the undersigned higher education associations, we write in support of S.264 the *Dream Act of 2021*.

We are pleased that Senator Durbin and Senator Graham have reintroduced this important, bipartisan legislation and we urge the Senate to quickly approve it. The Dream Act would allow some undocumented young people, who have already invested in our country and in whom the country has already invested, to earn lawful permanent residence in the United States, and ultimately a path to full citizenship. Brought to our country as children, many of these outstanding young individuals do not even remember the country they came from and consider America to be their only home. Through no fault of their own, they have been left in a state of uncertainty for years and are unable to pursue their dreams and long-term goals in confidence and contribute more fully to our nation.

We have seen these remarkable people up close on our campuses as our students, colleagues, and friends. They are educated and grew up with American values and traditions, making them American in every way except immigration status, and have made valuable contributions to our country's security and economy. They work and pay taxes. They serve in the military and teach in our schools. Thousands of Dreamers work on the COVID-19 frontlines. And tens of thousands of Dreamers have earned or are striving to earn a college degree in institutions across the country. We cannot afford to shut the door to an entire generation of individuals who seek to contribute their best to America.

It is imperative for Congress to act swiftly to protect Dreamers and provide a clear pathway to citizenship. While the Supreme Court restored the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program established by executive action, DACA continues to face judicial challenges. As you know, there is widespread bipartisan support from Capitol Hill to Main Street for protecting these high-achieving and talented young people. We are eager to work with Congress to address this issue as soon as possible, and are grateful for Senator Durbin's and Senator Graham's continuing efforts to protect Dreamers.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell, President

Cc: The Honorable Dick Durbin
The Honorable Lindsey Graham

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 Colleges of Nursing
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
American Dental Education Association
Association of American Colleges and Universities
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 Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Common App
Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
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
EDUCAUSE
ETS
Higher Education Consultants Association
Higher Learning Commission
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Middle States Commission on Higher Education
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of College and University Business Officers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
New England Commission of Higher Education
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
UPCEA
WASC Senior College & University Commission