



Office of the President

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August 30, 2017

President Donald Trump
c/o Domestic Policy Council
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: The Future of DACA

To the honorable President of the United States,

Recent reports suggest that the Trump Administration is considering winding down the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program or ending it altogether in response to requests from Attorney Generals in 10 states. On behalf of the University of Wisconsin System – one of the largest public systems of higher education in the country – I write with serious concerns about the future of the DACA program. We strongly urge continued support of the program as a step in the right direction to eventually providing these young individuals, whose only home they have known is the United States of America, with permanent residency.

In addition to extending provisional protection from deportation, DACA allows participants to stay, work, and study in the United States. DACA enrollees were brought to the U.S. as minors and would be left in an untenable position if the program were to be ended. Furthermore, DACA students make invaluable contributions to public university campuses and communities across the country. Ending the program would place their immense contributions, both social and economic, in jeopardy. Until permanent relief such as the DREAM Act is passed into law, DACA is the only appropriate, fair and compassionate policy for these young students.

According to Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce:

- U.S. jobs requiring postsecondary education and training are expected to reach a new high of 65 percent in 2020.
- By 2020, the United States is projected to face a shortage of 3 million workers with associate's degrees or higher and 5 million workers with technical certificates and credentials.
- Thirty-six million Americans have low basic skills that limit their earning power without further education and training.

Wisconsin's workforce needs reflect similar challenges. Our traditional population of college-going students is declining, and there is a projected shortage of workers in critical fields such as medicine, engineering, nursing, and teaching. This projected gap affirms the need to ensure that

deserving young dreamers have a pathway to citizenship and access to higher education and the opportunity to positively contribute to our state and nation.

The University of Wisconsin System joins the Association on Public-Land Grant Universities and many other higher education groups across the country in support of DACA. By maintaining these protections until such time as Congress can debate and pass comprehensive immigration reform, DACA recipients will continue to have the clarity and certainty necessary to advance their lives, serve the economic needs of our country, and participate fully in society.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of these comments. The UW System stands ready to work with the Trump Administration and Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

Sincerely,



Ray Cross
UW System President

cc: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation