



September 7, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leaders McConnell, Pelosi, and Schumer:

The undersigned members of the Association of American Universities (AAU) urge Congress to immediately enact a permanent legislative solution for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We are extremely disappointed by the administration's announcement that it is ending DACA, thereby invalidating the legal status of hundreds of thousands of students. We strongly urge Congressional action immediately so DACA participants may remain in the United States without fear of deportation and so they can continue to contribute to our society.

As educational leaders, we are committed to providing equal opportunity for all students to pursue their learning and life goals. Since 2012, DACA has enabled these young people to pursue education and employment. With DACA, our students and alumni have been able to pursue opportunities in business, education, high-tech industries, and the non-profit sector; they have gone to medical school, law school, and graduate school in numerous disciplines; and they are actively contributing to their local communities and economies by working, volunteering, and paying taxes. America needs hardworking talented people – and these students are already meaningful members of our society. They represent what is best about America, and as scholars and leaders they are a vital part of our future.

Providing a permanent legal solution for these individuals is both a moral imperative and a national necessity if our nation is to live up to the ideals we espouse. As a country, we should not break the promise made to DACA participants, and we should not tarnish the bright American promise of opportunity.

We call on Congress to enact this fall a permanent solution, such as the bipartisan BRIDGE Act (S. 128) and Dream Act (S. 1615), or new legislation that mirrors DACA. We stand ready to support efforts to this end.

Sincerely,

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Princeton University

David Leebron
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Rice University

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Mary Sue Coleman
President
Association of American Universities

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