

February 16, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) is of great importance to thousands of community college students throughout this country. In September, the Administrator put forth a timeline to terminate DACA by March 5th. While ongoing legal proceedings have temporarily delayed this deadline, the need for a swift, permanent legislative solution remains.

DACA provides an educational and career pathway for undocumented young people, many of whom have no ties to, or even memories of, the countries from which they came. As open access institutions, community colleges serve students from all walks of life, and that diversity contributes to greater unity in the communities that we serve. It is a core part of our mission to provide opportunity to all students, and DACA helps support that mission. Backing for DACA expands well beyond our campuses, as 74 percent of Americans support granting permanent legal status to Dreamers according to the Pew Research Center.

Terminating DACA undercuts our efforts to serve impacted students by creating additional barriers to postsecondary access for DACA recipients, including the ability for some DACA students to receive in-state tuition. It would also prevent those students in whom we've invested from obtaining legal work in this country. These are individuals who are current and future taxpayers, and their ability to work helps drive our economy forward. According to the CATO institute, the termination of DACA would cost this country \$280 billion in economic growth over the next decade.

These students were brought to the United States at young ages, and none of them willfully violated the law in order to immigrate to this country. To revoke educational and other life opportunities for reasons beyond their control is undeserved. The Association of Community College Trustees calls on Congress to act quickly to remedy this situation for those individuals profoundly affected by the plan to terminate DACA.

Sincerely,



J. Noah Brown
President & CEO
Association of Community College Trustees



Emily Yim
Chair
Association of Community College Trustees