February 7, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York
New York State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

On behalf of the New York University (NYU) community, I am writing to urge inclusion of the New York DREAM Act in the 21-day or 30-day Amendments to your 2014-2015 Executive Budget Proposal. We have been very supportive of past efforts in the New York State Assembly and Senate to pass the DREAM Act and we are hopeful this legislation can be enacted into law this year.

New York City owes much of its growth and character to the contribution of immigrant communities, and NYU as an institution has always encouraged students of all ethnic and economic backgrounds to pursue a quality higher education. Expanding educational opportunities for immigrant youth not only helps individual students—it helps entire communities, states, and the nation as a whole. Ensuring an educated workforce, encompassing both U.S. citizens and immigrants, is a key ingredient to ensuring a thriving economy.

As a longtime supporter of the national DREAM Act, I am disappointed that this legislation remains stuck in a divided U.S. Congress. Therefore, we are hopeful that New York State can lead the way in ensuring that our immigrant residents fulfill their academic and personal potential through improved access to state higher education institutions. It is essential that students who arrive in the U.S. as children and graduate from state public high schools are given the same opportunities as their peers.

The NYU community respectfully urges you to include passage of the New York DREAM Act in your Executive Budget Proposal and to advocate in support of its passage in the 2014 legislative session. We sincerely appreciate your persistent leadership on educational opportunities, including college access and STEM education issues. If I can be helpful to your efforts in any way, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

John Sexton