The Honorable Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

January 12, 2013

Dear Congressman Zeldin:

On behalf of the entire New York University (NYU) community, I am writing to urge you and your congressional colleagues to do all you can to ensure that the final Fiscal Year 2018 spending agreement includes provisions that would permanently protect students that had been covered under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Administration’s announcement last year that it was terminating DACA, thereby putting the legal status of hundreds of thousands of students nationwide in jeopardy, has deeply dismayed NYU’s students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

The Dreamers among our students earned their place here by dint of their talent, their drive, and their hard work. They enliven our classrooms and laboratories, and contribute greatly to campus life. They are our protégés, our mentees, our collaborators and our friends. Surely it is at odds with our national ideals to unjustly punish with deportation a group of young people who have done nothing other than follow their parents to the US, which in turn became the only homeland many of them have ever known.

America’s colleges and universities have encouraged students of all ethnic and economic backgrounds to pursue a quality higher education. The DACA program has allowed these young people to pursue educational opportunities in a wide variety of disciplines and they are actively contributing to local communities and the national economy by working, volunteering and paying taxes. As a life-long educator, I can assure you that if these students are permitted to stay and attain their degrees, they will make all of us proud.

The NYU Community strongly urges quick congressional action that will allow DACA participants to remain in the United States without fear of deportation so that they may pursue their degrees and continue to contribute to our great nation free from fear.

As Congress debates the future of DACA, please let me know if I can be of assistance — as an educator, as an immigrant myself, or even simply as a father who can imagine the devastating impact of DACA’s expiration on a family. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Andrew Hamilton  
President  
New York University