



ANDREW HAMILTON
President

70 Washington Square South
New York, NY 10012

P: 212 998 2345

F: 212 995 4790

andrew.hamilton@nyu.edu

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

September 11, 2017

Dear Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the entire New York University (NYU) community – and particularly on behalf of DACA participants – I am writing to urge you and your congressional colleagues to quickly enact legislation to codify the provisions of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy into federal law. The administration's recent announcement that it is 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.

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. In an increasingly interconnected global educational environment where students, faculty and ideas travel freely, it makes little sense to limit the ability of these students to reach their highest potential in the country in which they have spent their entire lives.

And the loss of the Dreamers would not just be a blow to our campus community, it would be unjust. Surely it is at odds with our national ideals to 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.

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.

I know you feel as I do and our community is fortunate to have advocates like you representing us in the United States Congress. I thank you for the leadership I know you will exert on behalf of these young men and women.

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,