



December 19, 2016

Mr. Donald Trump
President-Elect of the United States
Trump Tower
735 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Trump:

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), a membership organization of more than 470 colleges and universities committed to championing Hispanic success in higher education, and the undersigned organizations representing thousands of institutions of higher education and communities across the nation, strongly urge you to keep the current Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) measures in place and to support DREAM Act legislation in the 115th Congress.

Of the estimated 11 million undocumented residents, many of them Hispanic, the young people known as Dreamers constitute an untapped resource with great potential. Brought to the U.S. as children and guaranteed by our Constitution and courts the right to primary and secondary education, the Dreamers reach a barrier to their contribution to their adopted homeland posed by the lack of opportunity for higher education. Since the DREAM Act was first introduced by Senators Richard Durbin (IL) and Orrin Hatch (UT) in 2001, HACU has been a strong advocate. President Obama's DACA order has allowed some 750,000 of these young people to come out of the shadows and have a very partial and temporary shot at the American dream. But DACA is only a stopgap measure, and what is needed is the passage of the DREAM Act and ultimately a fair, just, and comprehensive immigration reform.

Extending DACA and supporting the DREAM Act would be welcome first steps to the kind of immigration reform that will indeed make America greater, as a nation of immigrants that not only works to provide opportunity for its own citizens, but that also continues to open the door to new Americans. The U.S. is a nation of laws, but the law must serve our larger purpose, and current immigration law, just as it fails to secure us from those who pose a threat to our way of life, also fails to capitalize on an accessible and important talent pool. The Dreamers are a key segment of this talent pool: they have done everything we could ask, succeeded in American PK-12 schools, overcome obstacles to pursue further education, kept out of trouble with the law, and sought to make their contribution to our nation. It only makes sense to allow them to make that contribution in the light of day and eventually as U.S. citizens.

We wish you the best as you assemble the new administration and grapple with the important issues facing our nation. We look forward to working with you over the coming years. More information about HACU is available at www.hacu.net. Please feel free to contact me at 210-576-3214 or antonio.flores@hacu.net.

Mr. Donald Trump
December 19, 2016
Page 2

Sincerely,



Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO

Additional organizations signing on to this letter:

AACRAO – American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
AACU – Association of American Colleges and Universities
AASCU – American Association of State Colleges and Universities
ACPA – American College Personnel Association
AIHEC – American Indian Higher Education Consortium
ARL – The Association of Research Libraries
ASPIRA Association
Casa de Esperanza
CCCU – Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
COE – Counsel for Opportunity in Education
CNC – Cuban American National Council
HNBA – Hispanic National Bar Association
LCLAA – Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
LatinoJustice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF)
LULAC – League of United Latin American Citizens
LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Councils of Indiana
MANA – A National Latina Organization
NACAC – National Association for College Admission Counseling
NACUBO – National Association of College and University Business Officers
NAHFE – National Association for Hispanic Federal Executives
NASFAA – National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
NACOPRW – National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.
NCLR – National Council of La Raza
SER (Service, Employment, and Redevelopment) National Inc.
The University of Arizona
WICHE – Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

Cc: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader-Elect, U.S. Senate
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Congressional Hispanic Conference
HACU Governing Board