

June 3, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write in strong support of H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2019*, which the House will consider this week. This legislation would allow some undocumented young people, high-achieving individuals who contribute to our nation's economy and security, to earn lawful permanent residence in the United States and a path to citizenship. Brought to our country as young children, many of these "Dreamers" consider America to be their only home.

The bill focuses on the special case of talented and productive young people who came to this country because of the actions of their parents. They are educated, English-speaking, and grew up with American values and traditions, making them American in every way except for their immigration status. But these outstanding individuals are forced to live in an unacceptable political and legal limbo. They work and pay taxes. They serve in the military and teach in our schools. And tens of thousands of Dreamers have or are striving to earn a college degree.

In October 2017, the American Council on Education submitted a letter to Congress signed by more than 800 college and university presidents urging Congress to pass a permanent legislative solution protecting Dreamers. Similar support has been expressed by hundreds of business and industry leaders and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. Protecting Dreamers is popular among the general public as well. A June 2018 Gallup survey found that 83 percent of Americans, including 75 percent of Republicans, favor or strongly favor allowing Dreamers the chance to become U.S. citizens.

Finally, the legislation would also extend protections to immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) who have seen their status terminated and left in uncertain limbo. Many of our institutions also have students and employees who have lived, worked, and studied while under TPS and DED, and we support the efforts to include protections for this population in this legislation.

When the president revoked DACA in September 2017, he called on lawmakers to pass legislation to protect Dreamers. It is clear that in Congress, and across the nation, there is widespread and bipartisan support for doing just that. We strongly urge support of this bill and encourage your members to vote in support of H.R. 6, the *American Dream and Promise Act of 2019*.

Sincerely,



Ted Mitchell
President

On behalf of:

ACPA- College Student Educators International
American Association of Colleges of Nursing
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers
American Association of Community Colleges
American Association of State Colleges and Universities
American College Health Association
American Council on Education
American Dental Education Association
APPA- Leadership in Educational Facilities
Association of American Colleges & Universities
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of American Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Community College Trustees
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
Association of Research Libraries
Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities
College and University Professional Association for Human Resources
Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area
Council for Advancement and Support of Education
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities
Council for Higher Education Accreditation
Council for Opportunity in Education
Council of Graduate Schools
Council of Independent Colleges
Council on Social Work Education
EDUCAUSE
ETS
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities
NAFEO: National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
National Association of College and University Business Officers

National Association of Colleges and Employers
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators
National Association of System Heads
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships
The College Board
UPCEA