



COUNCIL FOR CHRISTIAN COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

January 17, 2018

Representative Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for a Permanent, Legislative DACA Fix

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Leader McConnell, and Leader Schumer:

I am writing today on behalf of the Council for Christian Colleges & Universities (CCCU) to urge you to end DACA recipients' current uncertainty and pass a bi-partisan, permanent legislative solution without delay. The CCCU represents 182 institutions around the world, including 142 in the United States. Our institutions are affiliated with 35 Protestant denominations and the Catholic Church. Our schools educate 450,000 each year, including many Dreamers, and have over 3 million alumni. Christian colleges pursue faith and intellect for the common good.

We appreciate your ongoing efforts for the hundreds of thousands of young people who, through no fault of their own, came to the United States outside the established legal process. In their time here, they have invested in their communities. Setting aside the debate and ongoing legal battles regarding its legal underpinnings, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program rightly recognized that providing greater certainty and stability for these Dreamers contributes to both their thriving and the thriving of the communities around them. Indeed, many of our campuses have Dreamers as students. Some are leading athletic teams and volunteering in their communities in Iowa.¹ Others are pursuing their dreams of providing health interventions in schools, caring for foster children, or improving mental health in California.² All are contributing to their campus community.

The CCCU has supported a permanent solution for Dreamers since the DREAM Act was first introduced in 2001. Now more than ever, we feel the urgency of this issue for our students, their families, their employers, their churches, and their communities. As you well know, these young people have become

¹ Des Moines Register, "Dreamers want a future in Iowa. We should let them,"
<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2017/12/05/dreamers-want-future-iowa-we-should-let-them/923186001/>

² San Gabriel Valley Tribune, "Christian colleges want protections for the DREAMers,"
<https://www.sgvtribune.com/2017/12/08/christian-colleges-want-protection-for-the-dreamers/>



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integral parts of their communities, and removing them from the U.S. would impose a huge financial, as well as emotional, burden on the country. The Cato Institute, for example, estimates that deporting DACA recipients would reduce economic growth by \$280 billion and cost the government over \$60 billion over 10 years.³ In other words: “Each DACA permit canceled is like burning tens of thousands of dollars in Washington.”⁴ Meanwhile, business leaders, police chiefs, and educators all agree: forcing Dreamers back into the shadows will not make our nation safer, our economy stronger, or our society more united.⁵

Beyond the economic arguments, though, we also feel a moral imperative. The CCCU believes that all persons are made by our Creator God, are made in His image, and therefore are endowed with dignity (Genesis 1:27). These young people—and those around them—need stability in order to thrive. Mass deportation would unconscionably break up families.

We urge you to pass a permanent legislative fix at this crucial time. President Trump himself has called for a “bill of love,” and as 1 John 3:18 says, “Let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

We will continue praying for and advocating for a legislative fix during this limited window of time. As Pope Francis said, “You pray for the hungry. Then you feed them. This is how prayer works.” We will continue to partner in this work with like-minded organizations, such our friends at the Evangelical Immigration Table, the National Association of Evangelicals, the National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), the National Hispanic Leadership Conference (NHLC), the American Council on Education (ACE), and the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU).

We stand ready to assist you in whatever ways we can in passing a compassionate compromise that provides a permanent solution for Dreamers, their families, their employers, and their communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Shirley Hoogstra". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Shirley V. Hoogstra
President
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

³ Cato Institute, “The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Repealing DACA,” <https://www.cato.org/blog/economic-fiscal-impact-repealing-daca>

⁴ The Cato Institute, “Five Myths About DACA,” <https://www.cato.org/publications/commentary/five-myths-about-daca>

⁵ National Immigration Forum, “Local Leaders Target Congress Following DACA Rescission,” <http://immigrationforum.org/blog/local-leaders-target-congress-following-daca-rescission/>