CALIFORNIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the 10 campuses of the University of California, which represent nearly 265,000 students, more than 209,000 faculty, staff, and other academics, and almost 2 million alumni, we write with an urgent call for the California congressional delegation to lead bipartisan legislative efforts to protect Dreamers in California and throughout the nation who have been adversely impacted by President Trump’s decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. With approximately 220,000 DACA recipients residing in California and an estimated 4,000 undocumented undergraduate and graduate students studying across the UC system, a substantial number of whom have DACA, this issue is of critical importance to our state and needs immediate legislative action to provide DACA recipients with protection from removal and the ability to continue to work lawfully.

Dreamers across our 10 UC campuses are studying to be doctors, teachers, lawyers, and engineers. They are dental students providing comprehensive oral care to underserved communities, doctoral students using genomics and bioinformatics to develop new medical treatments for lung cancer patients, medical students who plan to practice medicine in underserved communities in California, and researchers working in our labs to drive California’s innovation economy. UC Dreamers represent the very best of our country – they are positive role models to their peers and critical to our nation’s progress. To strip them of DACA will upend their lives and the lives of their families and puts their ability to continue their educational pursuits at substantial risk.

California has the sixth largest economy in the world, and the economic effects of ending DACA will be significant if a bipartisan legislative solution is not signed into law. A recent report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy found that 1.3 million young undocumented immigrants currently enrolled in or immediately eligible for DACA contribute an estimated $534 million per year in state and local taxes in California and $2 billion in tax revenue nationally. Ending this temporary
lawful status will disrupt Dreamers’ lives by forcing them back into the shadow economy where they will not be able to realize their full potential.

We implore you to consider the long-term negative impacts to our undocumented students and employees, both to the University of California and the country, if Congress does not take action to reverse the President’s decision to end DACA. The future of many of our nation’s brightest minds is at risk. We are strong supporters of comprehensive immigration reform, but imminent legislative action to protect DACA recipients is needed.

Thank you for your continued support of the University of California. We stand together and ready to help you in your efforts to arrive at a bipartisan solution.

Yours very truly,

Janet Napolitano
President

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cc: Interim Associate Vice President Chris Harrington