



University of Massachusetts

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January 3, 2018

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senator
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Capuano
United States Representative
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable William Keating
United States Representative
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Stephen Lynch
United States Representative
2268 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Seth Moulton
United States Representative
1408 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Niki Tsongas
United States Representative
1714 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Katherine Clark
United States Representative
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Joseph Kennedy III
United States Representative
434 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James McGovern
United States Representative
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
United States Representative
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Markey and Warren, and Representatives Capuano, Clark, Keating, Kennedy, Lynch, McGovern, Moulton, Neal and Tsongas:

As you are aware, last year, the Trump Administration announced the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. This action endangers the futures of hundreds of thousands of young people who arrived in the United States as children, including nearly 19,000 in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We are aware that each of you has condemned the Administration's action and pledged to work to protect DACA recipients, more commonly known as Dreamers. Nevertheless, we feel obligated as higher education leaders to add our voices to those urging Congress to quickly enact a permanent legislative solution for DACA recipients. This solution is needed so that DACA recipients may remain in the United States without fear of deportation and continue to contribute to our society.

In the University of Massachusetts (UMass) system, we are committed to providing equal opportunity for all students to pursue their learning and life goals. To that end, the UMass system has extended in-state tuition to DACA recipients, as long as they meet other residency requirements, since the program's creation in 2012. DACA has allowed these students to emerge from the shadows to pursue their personal dreams and contribute to society more fully. DACA has facilitated the pursuit of higher education by undocumented youth in unprecedented numbers and ensured that, once enrolled, these students are positioned to succeed. As a result, many of these hardworking young people have made significant and wide-ranging contributions to our campuses. They form a key part of our campus life and our institutions have benefitted greatly from their energy, academic excellence and the diversity of their backgrounds and experiences.

DACA recipients grew up in America, registered with the federal government, and submitted to extensive background checks. They give back to their communities and pay taxes. With the protections offered by DACA, our students and alumni have been able to pursue opportunities in business, education, high-tech industries and the nonprofit sector. They have gone on to medical

school, law school and graduate school in numerous disciplines. The termination of DACA threatens their academic progress as well as the positive benefits they bring to the UMass community, their local communities and society as a whole.

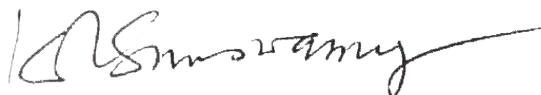
Without a permanent legislative solution, roughly 800,000 DACA recipients are threatened with a return to the shadows, loss of access to legal employment and education, and the constant dread of possible deportation. And while many have focused on a March 2018 deadline to statutorily enact DACA, in reality, more than 11,000 DACA recipients have lost their legal status since September alone, with more at risk every day. Immediate action is needed to halt these devastating consequences.

On behalf of our students and faculty, we ask you to dedicate yourself to the cause of Dreamers and work to pass bipartisan legislation that protects them. We stand ready to support your efforts to this end.

Sincerely,



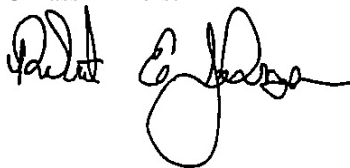
Martin T. Meehan, President
University of Massachusetts



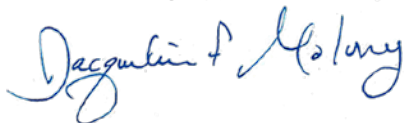
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