

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Talking Points to Congress to Protect Dreamers February 2018

- When President Trump effectively ended the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in September 2017, higher education urged Congress to act promptly to provide a long-term and permanent fix for these bright and talented young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children, through no fault of their own.
- Unfortunately, Congress has failed to act in a meaningful manner to move legislation forward. Court decisions have so far kept DACA alive. However, the administration has signaled clearly that it wants the Supreme Court to quickly take up the case and abolish DACA, which would subject dreamers to deportation from the only country they have ever called home.
- We have seen these remarkable individuals up close, in our classrooms, and as our colleagues and friends. Despite the challenges they face, they have made incredible contributions to our country and its economy and security. They should continue to be able to do so rather than living in fear and uncertainty.
- Public polling and policy analysis supports a legislative fix. A Sept. 2017 Fox News poll found that 83 percent of Americans support some pathway to citizenship for these individuals. A Sept. 2017 Washington Post-ABC News poll found more than two-thirds of adults—69 percent—support allowing these individuals to stay in the United States if they had arrived as a child, had completed high school or served in the military, and had not committed a serious crime. A more recent Jan. 11 poll from Quinnipiac University (NY) finds that 79 percent of American voters overall, and 64 percent of registered Republicans, believe Dreamers should be allowed to remain in the U.S. and apply for citizenship.
- The conservative CATO Institute estimates that deporting those with DACA status would cost nationally over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.
- Given the importance of this issue, I am asking Congress to address this unacceptable political and legal limbo for these outstanding individuals and work with in a bipartisan manner to create and pass a long-term and permanent solution for the Dreamers as soon as possible.