

September 8, 2017

California Congressional Delegation

Dear Members of Congress,

The Pullias Center for Higher Education is situated within the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California. A core area of interest pertains to educational opportunity. Specifically, we conduct action-based research that increases access to college for low-income youth, which in turn, increases the democratic and economic strength of California and our country.

We urge the United States Congress to immediately enact legislation that will protect those individuals who have been adversely impacted by the Trump Administration's decision to eliminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Many of us know these Dreamers as family members, students and friends. We are disappointed that the Republican Administration has made a decision that will hurt not only these Dreamers but also our state. By the elimination of DACA we punish individuals and harm our economy. These are precisely the sorts of individual our state needs – tax-paying, law-abiding individuals who want to contribute to a state that has been made great by its diversity.

The state is stronger when access to higher education is a right and an opportunity for everyone. We have mentored, advised, taught and supported DACA students since the program's inception. We will continue to support these students, but we need your help. We need you to right the wrong that the Republican Administration has put in motion.

Sincerely,



William G. Tierney
University Professor &
Wilbur Kieffer Professor
of Higher Education,
Co-Director



Adrianna Kezar
Professor & Co-Director
University of
Southern California



Zoë Corwin
Research Associate



Monica Raad
Project Manager
Pullias Center



Carlos Galan
Student Programs Advisor

Tatiana Melguizo
Associate Professor of Education

James D. Ward
PhD Student and Research Assistant

Adrian Huerta
Provost's Postdoctoral Scholar

Antar Tichavakunda
PhD Student and Research Assistant

Julie R. Posselt
Assistant Professor
University of Southern California

Samantha Bernstein-Sierra
Postdoctoral Scholar
Research Associate

Michael Lanford
Postdoctoral Scholar
Research Associate

Diane M. Flores
Administrative Assistant
Pullias Center for Higher Education

Suneal Kolluri
PhD Student and
Research Assistant

Tattiya Maruco
Research Project Specialist
Pullias Center for Higher Education

John Brooks Slaughter
Professor of Education and
Engineering

Stephen Aguilar
Postdoctoral Scholar
Research Associate
University of Southern California

E. Edward Chi
PhD Student and
Research Assistant

Liane Hypolite
PhD Student and
Research Assistant

Kristan Venegas
Professor, Clinical Higher Education
University of Southern California

Marissiko Wheaton
PhD student and Research Assistant