



August 28, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) is greatly concerned about the possibility that DACA could be repealed leaving those who were brought to the U.S. as minors in an untenable position.

APLU is a research, policy, and advocacy organization dedicated to strengthening and advancing the work of public universities. Annually, its 194 U.S. member campuses enroll 4 million undergraduates and 1.2 million graduate students, award 1.1 million degrees, employ 1 million faculty and staff, and conduct \$40.7 billion in university-based research.

As you [previously stated](#), the young people who benefit from DACA deserve to “rest easy” knowing that the government’s enforcement priorities are “not after the dreamers,” but rather those who have committed serious crimes. [Recent reports](#) indicate however that you are now considering letting the program gradually expire – or ending it altogether effective immediately. Both options are distressing, and will severely impact individuals you [previously pledged](#) to treat “with a lot of heart.”

It is important to note that the benefits of DACA extend beyond the provisional protection from deportation. The work authorization allows students to support themselves as they are working towards a degree with the hope of building a better future. They are doing the right thing: working, studying, and paying taxes.

Regardless of one’s view of the 2011 executive action at the time it was issued, we are now faced with a dire situation for these students. Continuing the DACA program is the only appropriate, fair, and compassionate policy. It is also the best policy to maintain their contributions to our economy and communities.

Please know that APLU remains committed to working with you and Congress to provide a legislative solution for DACA enrollees who are working hard in furtherance of their academic pursuits.

Sincerely,

Peter McPherson
President
APLU

CC: John Kelly, White House Chief of Staff