

February 14, 2018

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Corker
U.S. Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Alexander and Senator Corker,

As leaders of colleges and universities in Tennessee who are committed to supporting our students regardless of their immigration status, citizenship, or nationality, we write to urge you to support immigration legislation that would provide a permanent solution for undocumented students who were brought to this country illegally as young children through no fault of their own. In light of the decision by the administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, it is more important than ever that Congress enact a legislative path forward for these young people as soon as possible. We strongly urge you and your colleagues to enact such legislation with all due speed.

Our institutions and the education we provide are more complete because our campuses embrace students of all backgrounds and nationalities. As we strive to prepare our students to compete in the global economy and to serve their communities, it is critical that our campuses reflect the rich diversity that makes our country stronger. We remain committed to educating bright and talented students and providing our students, faculty, and staff with a safe and welcoming environment.

Unfortunately, because of the impending end of the DACA program, these bright and talented students now live in fear of what happens next. They worry about whether they will be able to continue their studies, how they will secure a job, whether they will be deported, and what might happen to their families. This is stress that no young person should have to face, particularly those who have done everything we have asked of them and who are working hard to further their education and make their families and communities proud.

We have repeatedly expressed support for a permanent legislative solution for the DACA program, and we share President Trump's belief that these young people are "incredible kids." It is our sincere hope that you will support legislation during the Senate's immigration debate this week to ensure these individuals can further their educations, retain their jobs, and continue to contribute to our communities, our great state, and our country.

Sincerely,

Tom Bogart
President
Maryville College

Paul Conn
President
Lee University

Dan Boone
President
Trevecca Nazarene University

Bob Fisher
President
Belmont University

Bill Greer
President
Milligan College

Logan Hampton
President
Lane College

Marjorie Hass
President
Rhodes College

James Hildreth
President
Meharry Medical College

Christopher P. Hulin
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Middle TN School of Anesthesia

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Watkins College of Art, Design and Film

Mark LaBranche
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Martin Methodist College

Randy Lowry
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Betty Sue McGarvey
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LeMoyne-Owen College

Brian Noland
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East Tennessee State University

Randall O'Brien
President
Carson Newman University

Samuel "Dub" Oliver
President
Union University

Matt Pinson
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Claude Pressnell
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Kevin Rome
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M. David Rudd
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John Smarrelli
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Christian Brothers University

Paul Stumb
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Cumberland University

Gary Weedman
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Johnson University

Nicholas S. Zeppos
Chancellor
Vanderbilt University