



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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## DACA Update

June 21, 2018

***Several higher education associations have banded together to form a powerful voice for DACA reform. The following is their letter to Congressman Paul Ryan, the Speaker of the House.***

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The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515  
June 20, 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan:

We write to express appreciation for the efforts being made in the House to provide a legislative solution for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) in the Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 and lift the cloud of uncertainty that Dreamers have been forced to live under since the September 2017 rescission of the DACA policy.

We believe this represents an opportunity to move the legislative process forward. It is imperative to protect Dreamers and provide a clear pathway to citizenship. There are other critically important issues that are a part of this debate, including the urgent and heartbreaking issue of migrant children being separated from their parents when families are arrested at the border. As you act to prohibit that practice, we also urge you to decisively address DACA and provide immediate and long-term legal status for 1.8 million Dreamers.

For over a decade, we have advocated for a long-term legislative fix for the outstanding young individuals known as Dreamers. Last year, more than 800 college and university

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[www.njascu.org](http://www.njascu.org)

*The College of New Jersey  
Kean University  
Montclair State University*

*New Jersey City University  
Ramapo College of New Jersey  
Rowan University*

*Stockton University  
Thomas Edison State University  
William Paterson University*

presidents urged lawmakers to take action to protect DACA registrants, as did nearly 80 higher education associations.

There is widespread bipartisan support for protecting these high-achieving and talented young people, and we urge you to forge a bipartisan solution to do so. We are grateful for the continuing efforts of the members of Congress who have engaged in meaningful actions to move legislation forward that protects Dreamers, but we are not there yet.

We call on Congress to act immediately and effectively to address these urgent issues.

Sincerely,  
Ted Mitchell  
President  
On behalf of:

American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Council on Education  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities