September 7, 2017

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
U.S. Senator
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Legislative solution for DACA provisions affecting undocumented young people

Dear Senator Stabenow:

In light of the recent announcement to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, we, the presidents and chancellors of Michigan’s 15 public universities, ask that you expeditiously approve a Congressional solution to allow undocumented youth participating in the DACA program to legally remain in the U.S.

Many of the 800,000 DREAMers nationally (those enrolled in the DACA program) are working here in Michigan, paying taxes, and are furthering their education at our institutions and others with the hopes of contributing even more to advancing the state’s talent capacity and to improving their local communities. Absent a Congressional solution, these young adults, who were brought to the U.S. at a young age, face deportation to countries they do not know. It will also mark an end to their aspirations and ability to contribute to society and the economy of our state and nation.

We ask that you urgently work to pass legislation that at a minimum codifies the provisions of the DACA program. Such a legislative outcome will prevent hundreds of thousands of young people’s lives from being dramatically disrupted and will allow these individuals to continue their vital contributions to workplaces, college campuses, and communities throughout Michigan and the U.S.

The state universities of Michigan offer our full support to members of the state’s Congressional delegation in the quest to craft a legislative solution that is rational, fair, and compassionate to DREAMers.

Respectfully,

The Presidents and Chancellors of the State Universities of Michigan

Copy: All members of the Michigan Congressional Delegation
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