



MINNESOTA PRIVATE COLLEGE COUNCIL

October 9, 2017

Senator Amy Klobuchar
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

As presidents of Minnesota's nonprofit private colleges, we join together in a unified voice to urge you to work in a bipartisan effort to promptly enact a permanent legislative solution for undocumented childhood immigrants, such as the proposal by Sens. Graham (R-SC) and Durbin (D-IL), to protect DACA enrollees and other undocumented child immigrants by creating a fair pathway to citizenship for these students.

At a time when all of our students should be excited about the start of a new school year, some fear expulsion from the only country they have ever known. They have grown up in our communities, been educated in our K-12 school systems, and have incredible potential to help our country grow economically. Barring legislative action by Congress, students who were brought to the United States as children will lose their eligibility to stay in our country legally and work here. The threat of deportation (in many cases to countries of which they have no memory and whose language they never learned to speak) discourages them from pursuing their educational aspirations and fulfilling their human potential.

DACA students are valued members of our college communities across Minnesota. They enrich and strengthen our campuses with their intellect, their work ethic, and their service to our communities. They are also an important part of our future economic vitality. According to a 2016 report sponsored by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce and the Immigrant Law Center, (1) DACA recipients contribute millions of dollars to Minnesota's tax revenue and our state has already experienced both social and economic benefits and (2) offering DACA students an eventual path to citizenship would result in additional federal and state tax revenues and would generate increased employment statewide. A national study has reported that deporting these individuals would cost the United States federal government more than \$60 billion and reduce economic growth by \$280 billion over the next decade. Our state and our nation will be strengthened economically by harnessing the talents of these young people.

Minnesota's Private Colleges | Excellence within reach

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Bethany Lutheran College
Bethel University
Carleton College
College of Saint Benedict
The College of St. Scholastica

Concordia College, Moorhead
Concordia University, St. Paul
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamline University
Macalester College
Minneapolis College of Art and Design

Saint John's University
Saint Mary's University of Minnesota
St. Catherine University
St. Olaf College
University of St. Thomas

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As educators, we above all else strive to support the aspirations of all the young people we are fortunate to serve at our institutions. At this critical time, we urge you to support the hopes of these undocumented young people to be full participants in the American dream.

Sincerely,



Mary Hinton
Chair, Minnesota Private College Council
President, College of Saint Benedict



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Hamline University



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Macalester College



Jay Coogan
Minneapolis College of Art and Design



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St. Catherine University



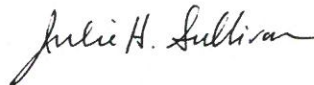
Michael Hemesath
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Julie H. Sullivan
University of St. Thomas

cc: Minnesota Congressional Delegation Members