



May 15, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Jerrold “Jerry” Nadler
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Doug Collins
Ranking Member
Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chairman Nadler and Ranking Member Collins:

On behalf of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities (CICU), the State University of New York (SUNY), and the City University of New York (CUNY) we write in support of H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act of 2019. We are pleased to see that so many members of New York’s Congressional delegation have signed onto this important piece of legislation. Thanks to the leadership of Representatives Velázquez and Clarke this measure will help undocumented students pursue their dreams and continue their contributions to our nation.

The public and private colleges we represent educate 1.2 million degree seeking students each year. Our institutions have always welcomed all students, regardless of immigration status. We are happy that New York recently passed the DREAM Act ensuring that every student has access to state-funded financial aid. Now is the time for the federal government to act to ensure protections for every student who dreams of a better future.

The Dream and Promise Act is a critical piece of legislation that will provide equal opportunity and access to higher education for undocumented students in the United States. This legislation would not only provide new higher education opportunities for a deserving population, but would restore the ability of states to grant in-state tuition to undocumented immigrants on the basis of residency. It would also grant Dreamers eligibility for Title IV federal student aid programs. These provisions, in combination with the rest of the Dream and Promise Act, serve as mechanisms of change and will help us toward our collective goal of providing all American students access to world-class higher education.

Dreamers contribute to our society in many ways: they work and pay taxes, some serve in the military, others teach in our school systems. They embody the American dream we all strive for, working hard to build a better life for themselves and their families. These students were brought to the United States as children and have already surmounted many obstacles. We should work to help them achieve their dreams of higher education and a better life. The Dream and Promise Act of 2019 would be life-changing for these students and for immigrants with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).



President Trump revoked DACA in September 2017. It now falls on Congress to create and pass legislation that will protect Dreamers and enable them to have equal access to higher education opportunities. There is a desire for this measure to succeed across the nation, and we urge you to advance this crucial piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary Beth Labate".

Mary Beth Labate
President
CICU

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kristina Johnson".

Kristina Johnson
Chancellor
SUNY

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Felix V. Matos Rodriguez".

Felix V. Matos Rodriguez
Chancellor
CUNY