

January 13, 2017

The Honorable Rob Portman  
United States Senate  
448 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

The faculty leaders at Ohio's 14 public four-year universities thank Senators Lindsey Graham, Dick Durbin, Lisa Murkowski, Dianne Feinstein, Jeff Flake, and Chuck Schumer for their introduction of the BRIDGE Act. We very much appreciate the support that the BRIDGE Act would provide to the many public university students in Ohio that are currently facing uncertainty over their immigration status.

More than 700,000 individuals nationwide have benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The more than 20,000 DACA students on our campuses at public universities in Ohio have enriched the learning environment and brought extraordinary talent to our state. We appreciate that to be eligible for the DACA program that these students must not have been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, or have been otherwise found to be a threat to national security or public safety. Beyond that though, we have found them to be actively serving their local communities and economies. In short, they have proven to be an important asset to our society.

The Ohio Faculty Council stands in support of these students who arrived on our campuses with a belief in promises made by the government of the United States of America. We support the BRIDGE Act because it sends a clear and compelling message of support to the students who have directly benefited from the DACA program. We look forward to working closely with you, members of the United States Senate, and other policy makers who will stand up for and favor a fair policy treating these students with the respect that they have earned.

Sincerely,

Dan E. Krane,  
Chair, Ohio Faculty Council

Chet Cooper,  
Vice Chair, Ohio Faculty Council

cc: The Honorable Sherrod Brown, United States Senate  
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, United States Senate  
The Honorable Richard Durbin, United States Senate  
The Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate  
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate  
The Honorable Jeff Flake, United States Senate  
The Honorable Charles Schumer, United States Senate