



Ohio Faculty Council

September 11, 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 strongly agree with the presidents of our universities in their opposition to the Trump Administration's announcement regarding the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. They communicated their position to you in a letter dated September 7, 2017 (<http://www.iuc-ohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-IUC-Response-9-2017-Ltr.pdf>).

As they said in their letter to you, many Ohio students will face great difficulty because of the termination of the DACA program. Taking action to rescind this program, even with a reported six-month delay, will throw the lives of hundreds of young people and their families into turmoil.

On behalf of our students, and all who are potentially affected, the Ohio Faculty Council also urgently request Congress to approve legislation incorporating a permanent solution to this issue, a solution that includes permitting these students to maintain their current status in this country and at our institutions. This position is consistent with U.S. Attorney General Sessions's statement rescinding DACA, in which he said, "Congress should carefully and thoughtfully pursue the types of reforms that are right for the American people . . . and advance an immigration policy that serves the national interest."

We agree that consideration and passage at the national level is a better opportunity and more thoughtful way to fix the problem for public university students in Ohio facing uncertainty over their immigration status. It allows for a well-reasoned, comprehensive, and permanent result that provides hope and sends a clear and compelling message of support to our community.

As we said to you in a letter in January of this year, 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. They need and deserve our support.

We look forward to working closely with our university administrations and with policy makers who will stand for and favor a fair policy treating these students with the respect they have earned.

Sincerely,



Dan E. Krane,
Chair, Ohio Faculty Council



Beth Quitslund,
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

SUPPORT FOR BENEFICIARIES OF THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)
PROGRAM

Whereas, The Ohio Faculty Council represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in the State of Ohio and espouses strong and consistent faculty influence on issues and policies related to higher education;

Whereas, More than 700,000 individuals nationwide have benefited from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and students who are eligible for the DACA program must not have been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, or otherwise be deemed a threat to national security or public safety;

Whereas, DACA students on our campuses have proven to be an important asset to our society by enriching our learning environments and by being exemplary student scholars and student leaders as they actively serve their local communities and economies;

Whereas, More than 20,000 Ohio students who have been raised and educated in the United States are facing great difficulty because of the indeterminate status of the DACA program;

Whereas, the BRIDGE (Bar Removal of Individuals Who Dream of Growing our Economy) Act that was introduced by Sens. Dick Durban (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) on December 9, 2016 seeks to provide "provisional protected presence" to certain non-U.S. citizens, which would include authorization to work in the U.S. and protection from deportation, the two main benefits that DACA currently provides, now, therefore, be it

Resolved, The Ohio Faculty Council strongly supports passage of the BRIDGE Act.