

One Dupont Circle NW Washington, DC 20036 (202) 939-9300 acenet.edu

February 22, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Majority Leader United States Senate S-221, The U.S. Capitol Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Mitch McConnell Minority Leader United States Senate 317 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer and Minority Leader McConnell,

On behalf of the American Council on Education (ACE) and the undersigned higher education associations, we write in support of S.264 the *Dream Act of 2021*.

We are pleased that Senator Durbin and Senator Graham have reintroduced this important, bipartisan legislation and we urge the Senate to quickly approve it. The Dream Act would allow some undocumented young people, who have already invested in our country and in whom the country has already invested, to earn lawful permanent residence in the United States, and ultimately a path to full citizenship. Brought to our country as children, many of these outstanding young individuals do not even remember the country they came from and consider America to be their only home. Through no fault of their own, they have been left in a state of uncertainty for years and are unable to pursue their dreams and long-term goals in confidence and contribute more fully to our nation.

We have seen these remarkable people up close on our campuses as our students, colleagues, and friends. They are educated and grew up with American values and traditions, making them American in every way except immigration status, and have made valuable contributions to our country's security and economy. They work and pay taxes. They serve in the military and teach in our schools. Thousands of Dreamers work on the COVID-19 frontlines. And tens of thousands of Dreamers have earned or are striving to earn a college degree in institutions across the country. We cannot afford to shut the door to an entire generation of individuals who seek to contribute their best to America.

It is imperative for Congress to act swiftly to protect Dreamers and provide a clear pathway to citizenship. While the Supreme Court restored the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program established by executive action, DACA continues to face judicial challenges. As you know, there is widespread bipartisan support from Capitol Hill to Main Street for protecting these high-achieving and talented young people. We are eager to work with Congress to address this issue as soon as possible, and are grateful for Senator Durbin's and Senator Graham's continuing efforts to protect Dreamers.

Sincerely,

Ted Mitchell, President

Cc: The Honorable Dick Durbin The Honorable Lindsey Graham

On behalf of:

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges Achieving the Dream **ACPA-College Student Educators International** American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education American Association of Colleges of Nursing American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers American Association of Community Colleges American Association of State Colleges and Universities American Association of University Professors American College Health Association American Council on Education American Dental Education Association Association of American Colleges and Universities Association of American Universities Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities Association of Community College Trustees Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Massachusetts Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities College and University Professional Association for Human Resources **Common App Connecticut Conference of Independent Colleges** Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area Council for Advancement and Support of Education **Council for Christian Colleges & Universities Council for Higher Education Accreditation** Council for Opportunity in Education **Council of Graduate Schools Council of Independent Colleges EDUCAUSE** ETS **Higher Education Consultants Association Higher Learning Commission** Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

Middle States Commission on Higher Education NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education National Association of Colleges and Employers National Association of College and University Business Officers National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators National Council for Community and Education Partnerships New England Commission of Higher Education Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities Phi Beta Kappa Society Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges UPCEA WASC Senior College & University Commission