



October 31, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF DREAM LEGISLATION BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR

Dear Senators Feinstein and Padilla:

On behalf of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District, I write to respectfully urge you to respond to the devastating [Fifth Circuit Court decision](#) that jeopardizes the future of our undocumented students, faculty, and staff. We are relying on the Senate to reach a bipartisan compromise before the end of the year to provide permanent protection and a pathway to citizenship for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals recipients, undocumented students, and other Dreamers who have grown up in America and have so much to offer our country.

As chancellor of one of the largest community college districts in the state, I see the immense contributions Dreamers make to our campuses and communities on a daily basis. Our country has invested in Dreamers for decades. We have paid for their education in public schools, and our investment has paid off immeasurably.

DACA students have become highly valued employees, homeowners, military members, faith leaders, and founders of thriving businesses. More than [75% of DACA recipients in the workforce](#) — nearly 350,000 — were employed in jobs deemed essential by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, including 34,000 health care workers providing patient care and another 10,000 supporting health care infrastructure.

Additionally, undocumented immigrants pay approximately [11.6 billion in federal and state taxes annually](#) and pay a higher portion of their income into the system than the top 1%. It is estimated that granting legal status to all undocumented immigrants and allowing them to work legally would increase tax contributions by \$2.18 billion annually.

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Page 2

A bipartisan compromise is necessary to ensure Dreamers can continue to stay and succeed in America, including the [hundreds of thousands of undocumented students without DACA](#) and the thousands who have been unfairly locked out of the program. More than 400,000 undocumented students are pursuing higher education, launching careers, and contributing to their communities and states.

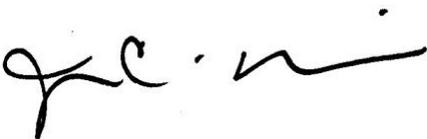
At a time of [labor shortages](#), with consequences ranging from inflation to diminished economic growth, we need to keep relying on the talents of the DACA workforce and other Dreamers. If and when DACA is eliminated, an estimated [1,000 U.S. jobs will be lost every business day over two years](#). We cannot afford to wait until the final blow is struck to this program by the courts. Approximately 100,000 undocumented students graduate from high school every year, including [27,000 in California](#). Only a quarter of these students are estimated to be eligible for DACA.

Undocumented students stand ready to contribute to the success of our country. They are our future doctors, nurses, engineers, teachers, business owners, and manufacturers. One of our undocumented students was brought to the United States at three months of age and did not learn about her undocumented status until high school. She is majoring in business and hopes to work for one of Silicon Valley's thriving high-tech companies. Another undocumented student, who earned the honor of serving as commencement speaker at one of our colleges, was brought to our country at age 11. He has plans to become a dentist and open a clinic for underserved and immigrant families. Yet another arrived at age 8 and is working toward being a teacher. These students and so many others across our nation live in fear. They identify as Americans and want to give back to their country. Let's help them find a way to legally do so.

There are approximately [75,000 undocumented students enrolled in California's institutions of higher education](#), the majority of whom do not have DACA. These students are working diligently to advance themselves, notwithstanding their uncertainty regarding whether they will be able to complete their education, much less remain and make a life in the United States.

We welcome the opportunity to tell you more about why we support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students and other needed reforms to modernize our immigration system so that our immigrant and international students can live freely and fully contribute to our communities and economy in California. We thank you for all that you have done to support our students in the past and respectfully ask that you introduce and work to pass legislation to provide permanent protection for Dreamers without delay.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Judy C. Miner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Judy C. Miner, Ed.D.
Chancellor