November 14, 2022

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
U.S. Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Alex Padilla  
U.S. Senate  
112 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein and Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the California State University (CSU), I write to urge you to work toward a bipartisan solution in support of Dreamers and undocumented students and to provide them with certainty following the disappointing Fifth Circuit Court decision affirming the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to be unlawful.

The CSU is proud to educate the most ethnically, economically and academically diverse student body in the nation and to create opportunity for all students of California to reach their educational goals. Dreamers are among our brightest and most engaged students, leaders at all levels of our university, and they actively serve the communities in which our campuses are embedded.

Across the 23 universities that comprise the CSU system, approximately 10,000 Dreamers students and 500 employees with DACA status contribute to the success of the CSU each day. They, like their peers, seek a better life for themselves and their families, as they contribute to the strength of the CSU and their own communities through service and leadership. Our state and nation benefit greatly from the gifts of these talented and deserving future leaders, as well as their fresh appreciation for and heartfelt belief in the American Dream.

One of the CSU’s top priorities is to secure federal legislative action to protect and support these deserving scholars and employees. We join the many voices, institutions and advocacy groups across the country in urging Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides Dreamers with a pathway to permanent residency and U.S. citizenship. Nothing short of a clear pathway to citizenship will offer our CSU family the certainty with which to pursue a degree and stable employment to contribute to California’s and the nation’s economy.
The California State University stands with our Dreamers on all our 23 campuses during this period of uncertainty. As you confront this critical challenge, please know that the CSU is ready to work with you to secure a permanent legislative solution to support our Dreamers.

Sincerely,

Jolene Koester
Interim Chancellor

JK/ghc

c: Members of the California Congressional Delegation