

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand  
United State Senate  
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2601  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I'm writing you regarding the recent Fifth Circuit Court decision that will endanger the future of millions of undocumented students across this nation and at Baruch College. I ask that you act now to foster a bi-partisan compromise that will provide DACA recipients, undocumented students and other Dreamers with permanent protected status and a path to citizenship.

Dreamers make an invaluable contribution to communities across the country and there is no brighter example of this than New York City. This great city has long been a magnet for the most talented and resilient strivers in the world. As president of Baruch, I see this firsthand in our approximately 1,000 undocumented students in our classrooms—among the largest in New York and within the CUNY system—and their stories are inspiring American stories.

For instance, Ivy Teng Lei '14 joined the Baruch community after emigrating from Macau as a young child. Initially unable to pursue a degree in her chosen discipline due to her immigration status, she applied for and was awarded a New York Immigration Coalition Dream Fellowship.

Ivy then went on to be a strong advocate for the rights of undocumented students and was featured on BBC World News, NBC News, and NY1, among many others. She now enjoys a successful career at a Silicon Valley technology firm, creating new American jobs.

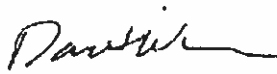
Tens of thousands of Dreamers have earned diplomas in our public high schools and 51,000 are enrolled in higher education across New York State. Yet, without a clear discernible path to citizenship and protection under codified law, the bright promise of these individuals is left to languish in the shadows of society, to the detriment of us all.

Dreamers, it must be said, came to this country through no action of their own. Yet, 100,000 graduate annually from our high schools and over 400,000 are enrolled in institutions of higher education across this nation. And what is the lost opportunity cost of having these individuals stuck in legal purgatory for years on end? The most conservative estimates indicate that American GDP could grow by \$281 billion over the next decade with full legalization for Dreamers, but, when adjusted for educational attainment, that figure could potentially rise to nearly \$730 billion over the same time period.

Ivy's story—one of civic empowerment and professional accomplishment—is a powerful example of what is possible when individuals are given an opportunity to flourish and what we stand to lose if DACA is permanently overturned.

I welcome the opportunity to engage with you and your team to highlight the potential of these individuals and urge you to find a bi-partisan path for permanent legal status for Dreamers and a pathway to citizenship for all undocumented students. Only through embracing them and their talents can we as a nation hope to achieve our fullest potential—I thank you in advance for your advocacy and support on this vital and urgent issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. David Wu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

S. David Wu  
President  
Baruch College,  
City University of New York

December 1, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Majority Leader  
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

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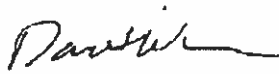
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S. David Wu  
President  
Baruch College,  
City University of New York