May 7, 2024

Hon. Richard Durbin  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Graham:

On behalf of the California State University (CSU), I want to thank you for your interest in the nation’s Dreamers, and for organizing this Wednesday’s hearing regarding their plight. As the nation’s largest and most diverse public four-year university system and its greatest engine of social mobility, the CSU is the proud home to approximately 10,000 Dreamer students and 500 employees with DACA status, each of whom contributes to the vitality and success of our institution each and every day. Behind these numbers are individuals – people who we regard as family and an essential part of the CSU community. We urge you and Congress to find a bipartisan pathway to allow them to stay in this country – in most cases the only home they have ever known – to achieve citizenship, and to gain access to federal financial aid so that they can fully contribute to our economy and our communities.

Dreamers are essential to our nation’s workforce, but without Congressional action to provide them with the stability, support and agency to pursue their studies and employment, our economy will suffer long-term. DACA-recipient households contribute $6.2 billion in federal taxes and $3.3 billion in state and local taxes annually. All totaled, more than 400,000 undocumented students are pursuing higher education across our nation, launching careers, and enriching their industries and communities. America can only truly benefit from their boundless talents by providing them with permanent solutions.
Again, as we anticipate this week’s hearing, the CSU urges Congress to pass bipartisan legislation that provides a pathway to permanent residency, U.S. citizenship, and access to federal financial aid for Dreamers. As a first step, we encourage Congress to pass the DREAM Act (S.365) or similar legislation.

We thank you for your attention and continued partnership in advancing opportunity for the CSU’s students, and we stand ready to serve as a resource in this vitally important work.

Sincerely,

Mildred García, Ed.D.

Chancellor

cc: Senator Laphonza Butler
    Senator Alex Padilla
    Wenda Fong, Chair, Board of Trustees
    Greg Saks, Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Communications
    George Conant, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Federal Relations