

# PRESIDENTS' ALLIANCE | ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION

February 12, 2024

Joseph R. Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Kamala Harris  
Vice President of the United States  
Eisenhower Executive Office Building  
Washington, DC 20006

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

## **RE: Congress Must Include Protections for Dreamers in Immigration Compromises**

Dear Mr. President, Madam Vice President, Mr. Speaker, and Leaders Schumer, McConnell, and Jeffries:

On behalf of the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration, we write to urge you to include relief for Dreamers, both with and without DACA, in any bipartisan compromise. Dreamers, who have grown up in the United States and are attending or have graduated from American colleges and universities, are integral to our country and to the communities, workplaces, schools, and families to which they belong and which rely on them. An immigration compromise that leaves out Dreamers is counter-productive to our national economic and security interests.

The Presidents' Alliance comprises over 550 college and university presidents and chancellors leading every type of higher education institution, from private universities and colleges to large public universities to community colleges, and including Hispanic-Serving Institutions, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and faith-based institutions. As part of our mission, we encourage bipartisan approaches to reform, including support for fair compromises.

Bipartisan solutions continue to be urgent as the future of hundreds of thousands of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients is imperiled in federal court. As leaders in higher education, we have seen firsthand the hard-won success of Dreamers with and without DACA against a backdrop of legal uncertainty. Many Dreamers are multilingual, enriching the educational experiences of all students and helping to produce better members of an increasingly globalized workforce. Dreamers are pursuing and graduating from undergraduate and graduate education in STEM, healthcare, and teaching, fields that face severe labor shortages. Three-quarters of DACA recipients were employed in essential occupations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A failure to provide relief for Dreamers impacts the future of our economy, and losing this “capable workforce” threatens [national security interests](#) as well, hampering the nation’s “ability to be competitive and defend itself.” DACA recipients contribute almost \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare annually and unleash a wave of entrepreneurship. DHS estimates that halting DACA renewals would cost the U.S. economy over \$400 billion over the course of the next two decades.

Dreamers’ success is our country’s success. As Dreamers thrive, so too will their fellow Americans, uplifting their families, communities, and state and local economies.

We recognize the challenges of reaching a compromise on such a difficult issue, understanding that individuals with sincere intentions may have differing opinions on various aspects of immigration policy. We stand ready and are eager to work with you, by providing valuable insights, resources, and expertise.

We appreciate your many efforts on behalf of our nation’s colleges and universities and the students and communities we serve, including the immigrant, refugee, and international students who are vital members of our campus and local communities. For any questions regarding the Alliance and its work, please contact Diego Sánchez, our Director of Policy and Strategy, at [diego@presidentsalliance.org](mailto:diego@presidentsalliance.org).

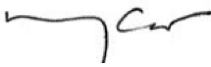
Sincerely,



**Miriam Feldblum**  
Executive Director  
Presidents’ Alliance on Higher Education  
and Immigration




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Co-Chair and Senior Advisor, Steering  
Committee



**Nancy Cantor**  
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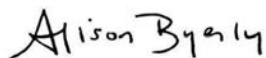
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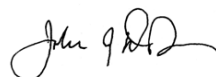
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