

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana-Champaign • Chicago • Springfield

Office of the President
364 Henry Administration Building
506 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

June 3, 2019

We write to urge your support for the Dream Act of 2019, H.R. 2820, which would help ensure that talented undocumented Illinoisans who came to the United States as children can continue to make positive contributions to our state and nation.

The University of Illinois System is committed to providing educational opportunities for qualified and deserving students, regardless of their immigration status. That commitment is rooted in our land-grant mission to open our doors wide and nurture the highly skilled workforce that is critical to move America forward.

It is why we support the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which, since 2012, has helped provide undocumented students a life-changing pathway to a University of Illinois degree without fear of deportation. Unfortunately, the decision in 2017 to end DACA and subsequent, ongoing legal challenges have created tremendous anxiety and uncertainty for current, former and prospective students.

The House Judiciary Committee's approval of the Dream Act of 2019 marks an important step toward ending that uncertainty. The legislation would protect so-called Dreamers from deportation and give them an opportunity to become lawful permanent residents, provided they pass a criminal background check, demonstrate good moral behavior, and meet various educational or work requirements. It would remove the cloud that currently hangs over their heads, and allow them to be productive members of what for many is the only country they have ever known. Accordingly, we hope that you will support the bill when it is considered by the full House of Representatives, either separately or as part of H.R. 6.

Sincerely,



Timothy L. Killeen
President



Barbara J. Wilson
Executive Vice President &
Vice President for Academic Affairs



Robert J. Jones
Chancellor, Urbana-Champaign



Michael D. Amiridis
Chancellor, Chicago



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