



September 7, 2017

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

The Maryland higher education community urges Congress to act swiftly to address the status of undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children. Recent action by the Department of Justice to terminate the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program within six months will adversely impact thousands of Marylanders, including students enrolled at our colleges and universities who are among the 800,000 individuals registered under DACA.

These individuals are not strangers in our communities. They are classmates, neighbors, friends, and co-workers. Many have overcome major obstacles to enroll in college and become engaged and productive members of their campus communities and adoptive nation. These students are thriving in our classrooms and laboratories preparing for careers as teachers, nurses, engineers, scientists, technicians, and skilled personnel. Most are actively participating in high-quality service learning and community engagement. Their contributions have a profound impact on Maryland's economy and the society at large. The nation needs their talents, ingenuity, and ambitions to sustain and stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life for all Americans.

Please preserve DACA while seeking a permanent solution, and allow these productive and high-achieving individuals to continue to work, study, and contribute to our great country.

Sincerely,

Bernard Sadusky
Exec. Director, MACC

Tina Bjarekull
President, MICUA

David Wilson
President, Morgan State University

Tuajuanda Jordan
President, St. Mary's College of MD

Robert Caret
Chancellor, University System of MD