



400+ CEOs, University Presidents and Civic Leaders Urge Leaders Schumer and McConnell To Pass Bipartisan DREAM Act Following Texas Court Ruling to End DACA

On behalf of NADOHE, President Paulette Granberry Russell, has signed onto this national campaign letter sponsored by the non-partisan and non-profit American Business Immigration Coalition following this week's ruling by federal district court Judge Andrew Hanen's that DACA is unlawful and blocking first-time DACA applicants while allowing current recipients to continue to be enrolled in the program. Nearly half a million DACA learners call our universities home and thousands of others have been pushed into the shadows due to fear and intimidation. As the preeminent voice for diversity officers in higher education, we will continue to inform and influence national and local policies that support our diverse community of learners and help to establish a climate of inclusion and equity across higher education. The full letter, urging the passage of the Dream Act of 2021, is below. For an opportunity to learn more about the impacts of the recent decision, please check out an [upcoming webinar](#).

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Dear Leader Chuck Schumer and Leader Mitch McConnell,

As business, education, civic and faith leaders around the country we join together to call on the U.S. Senate to pass the bipartisan Dream Act of 2021, reintroduced by Senators Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), which would provide Dreamers, their families, and the employers who depend on them much-needed certainty following years of legal limbo.

Nearly 80 percent of all voters and more than half of Republican voters believe in protecting these young immigrants, according to a [Pew Research Center Poll](#). Yet the decision issued by Texas federal district court Judge Andrew Hanen threatens the very existence of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), which protects Dreamers from deportation. **The decision blocks any new initial applications for DACA. While Judge Hanen allowed current DACA recipients to continue filing their renewals, he warned that an order stopping the processing of renewals could be issued in the near future.**

This decision throws into further limbo the lives of hundreds of thousands of young Dreamers, and gravely impacts their employers, families, and communities. It makes starkly clear why Congress must seize the opportunity to finally pass the

bipartisan Dream Act of 2021, and end this constant rollercoaster of lawsuits and uncertainty. If Congress cannot move forward swiftly in a bipartisan manner, then we call on the Senate and Congress to pursue a roadmap to citizenship through all available mechanisms — including budget reconciliation. Inaction is unacceptable in 2021.

This relief is particularly critical for the 98,000 Dreamers who graduate from high school every year and the 427,000 undocumented students enrolled in institutions of higher education. These students are working diligently to advance themselves, including pursuing careers in health, STEM, and teaching, notwithstanding the uncertainty they live with regarding whether they will be able to complete their education, invest in beginning careers, businesses, and families, and ultimately become citizens.

Dreamers are pillars of our nation's economy and communities - 93 percent of them are employed, they pay close to \$10 billion in taxes, and they carry nearly \$20 billion in [spending power](#). Nearly 40,000 Dreamers have started businesses and created new jobs for American workers, growing our entrepreneurial spirit. Dreamers are on the frontlines of the pandemic response. Almost 200,000 are essential workers - first responders, restaurant and grocery store workers, childcare providers and almost 30,000 healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses.

We urge the Senate to come together and immediately provide a pathway to citizenship for DACA recipients and DACA-eligible individuals through the passage of the bipartisan DREAM Act, and if necessary, through budget reconciliation. We understand that no bill is perfect, but we believe this existing bipartisan bill is the best framework to protect Dreamers rather than starting over with new legislation.

Sincerely,

Paulette Granberry Russell, President
National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education
Joining 400+ other leaders