



April 10, 2020

Dear Colorado United States Senators and Representatives:

In the midst of our national COVID-19 crisis, we want to express our deep concern of how this crisis is also impacting DACA recipients and Dreamers. As presidents and chancellors of public and private institutions of higher education in Colorado, we are reaching out to ask for your support in anticipation of the Supreme Court's decision on DACA in the next few months.

Our schools vary in size, student body, and mission, but all of our institutions recognize and value the contributions of these individuals to our campuses, community, and country. As higher education leaders, we firmly believe in investing in the success of all students, regardless of immigration status, and we urge you to enact permanent legislative protection for Dreamers and to ensure that the administration does not arrest, detain, or deport these individuals following an adverse Supreme Court decision.

As Members of Congress representing Colorado, we respectfully ask that you join us in supporting DACA recipients during this challenging time. Specifically, we urge you to:

- Automatically extend work authorization for DACA recipients for two years through legislation and simultaneously call upon the administration to do the same. As you know, Colorado Governor Jared Polis recently made this request of the Department of Homeland Security for those whose permission expires this year;
- Draft and approve legislation that would provide permanent protection for Dreamers without hurting or penalizing other immigrant communities;
- Call upon the Administration to refrain from arresting, detaining, or deporting Dreamers until Congress enacts permanent relief.

There are approximately 15,000 DACA recipients in Colorado. Their economic and civic contributions, of course, increase significantly with the completion of a higher education degree. Their loss of DACA status would translate to a loss for our state's economy. Within the context of the COVID-19 national pandemic, these challenges only multiply.

We appreciate your many efforts on behalf of our state and of Dreamers, and we sincerely hope you will continue to support these aspiring Americans who contribute so much to our economy and communities.

Sincerely,

Angie Paccione, Executive Director, *Colorado Department of Higher Education*

Janine Davidson, President, *Metropolitan State University of Denver*

Greg Salsbury, President, *Western Colorado University*

Father John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J., President, *Regis University*

Jeremy Haefner, Chancellor, *University of Denver*

Joe Garcia, President, *Colorado Community College System*

Tim Foster, President, *Colorado Mesa University*

Tom Stritikus, President, *Fort Lewis College*

Mark R. Kennedy, President, *University of Colorado System*
Philip P. DiStefano, Chancellor, *University of Colorado Boulder*
Donald M. Elliman Jr., Chancellor, *University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus*
Dorothy Horrell, Chancellor, *University of Colorado Denver*
Venkat Reddy, *University of Colorado Colorado Springs*
Tony Frank, President, *Colorado State University System*
Joyce E. McConnell, President, *Colorado State University Ft. Collins*
Becky Takeda-Tinker, President and CEO, *Colorado State University Global*
Timothy Mottet, President, *Colorado State University Pueblo*
Andy Feinstein, President, *University of Northern Colorado*
Stephanie Donner, Executive Director, *Emily Griffith Technical College*
Charles G. Lief, President, *Naropa University*
Jill Tiefenthaler, President, *Colorado College*
Paul Johnson, President, *Colorado School of Mines*
Carrie Besnette Hauser, President, *Colorado Mountain College*
Cheryl D. Lovell, President, *Adams State University*
Colleen Walker, Chief Executive Officer, *Auraria Higher Education Center*
Leah L. Bornstein, President, *Aims Community College*