



Office of the President

1700 Van Hise Hall
1220 Linden Drive
Madison, Wisconsin 53706-1559
(608) 262-2321 Phone
(608) 262-3985 Fax

e-mail: rcross@uwsa.edu
website: www.wisconsin.edu/

September 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Member of Congress
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan;

On behalf of the University of Wisconsin System Chancellors and myself, we respectfully request that you pass legislation that will, at a minimum, swiftly ensure the continued protections provided by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Based on the recent announcement by the Executive Branch that it will rescind the DACA program and refer the matter to Congress for a legislative answer, it is critical that Congress find a solution that will advance protections for undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as minors. These young people need clarity and certainty from our government to advance their lives and to continue to serve the economic needs of our country.

As we previously noted in a letter to President Trump, the UW System strongly urges continued support of the DACA program as a step in the right direction to eventually providing these young individuals with permanent residency in the United States of America.

In addition to extending provisional protection from deportation, DACA allows participants to stay, work, and study in the United States. It is widely acknowledged that DACA students make invaluable contributions, both economic and social, to university campuses and communities in Wisconsin and across the country.

The United States faces growing economic and demographic challenges. According to Georgetown University's [Center on Education and the Workforce](#):

- U.S. jobs requiring postsecondary education and training are expected to reach a new high of 65 percent in 2020.
- By 2020, the United States is projected to face a shortage of 3 million workers with associate's degrees, or higher, and 5 million workers with technical certificates and credentials.
- Thirty-six million Americans have low basic skills that limit their earning power without further education and training.

As you know, Wisconsin's workforce reflects similar challenges. Our traditional population of college-going students is declining, and there is a projected shortage of workers in critical fields such as medicine, engineering, nursing, and teaching. This projected gap affirms the need to ensure we utilize the talents, dedication, and full potential of everyone in our great country.

We appreciate your consideration and thank you in advance for your support. We stand ready to work with you to find bipartisan consensus on a legislative solution with vital consequences for Wisconsin and the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray Cross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ray Cross
UW System President

cc: Chancellors of the University of Wisconsin System