

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

September 1, 2017

Dear President Trump,

We, the undersigned 48 Heads of School and Presidents of educational institutions founded in close affiliation with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), write to you today to urge you to continue the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The Religious Society of Friends has a belief that there is ‘that of God’ in each and every person and for over 300 years, Friends schools have been tasked with educating young people from all walks of life both spiritually and intellectually. As educators following Quaker principles and testimonies, we encourage students to listen carefully, critically, and with openness to, and compassion for each other and themselves. We believe that the strongest communities are built and best lessons are learned when each person is given a genuine chance to thrive.

Since 2012, the DACA program has given young immigrants who grew up in the United States undocumented – often referred to as Dreamers – a better chance to thrive. Nearly 800,000 young people were able to seek previously unattainable educational and occupational opportunities. DACA recipients have enriched our schools as students, faculty, or wider community members. All Dreamers are welcome at Friends schools.

We understand that ten states have threatened to sue your administration should you keep the DACA program in place. Rescinding or altering DACA before Congress enacts a permanent solution would destabilize the lives of DACA recipients and the communities to which they belong. It would deprive Dreamers of meaningful opportunities and runs counter to our vocational call to set young people up for success, regardless of who they are or where they come from.

All of us have ‘that of God’ within us and deserve a real chance to pursue our dreams, and shine our Light in the world. We write to express our affirmation for the young people that are protected from deportation under DACA, and urge you to do everything in your power to continue that same protection well beyond September 5.

Sincerely,

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