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September 5, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House of Representatives
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-232
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room H-204
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Schumer, and Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the University of California, I write today to express my deep concern and profound disagreement with President Trump's decision to effectively end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. I urge Congress to immediately take up and pass bi-partisan legislation that will protect our nation's Dreamers and provide them with the opportunity to continue to live, work and contribute to the only country they have ever known.

Without Congressional action, the President's decision to effectively end DACA will derail the lives of an estimated 800,000 Dreamers who were brought to the United States as children, developed deep roots in the country, and have become valuable contributors to their communities. DACA recipients must currently attend school, have graduated high school or successfully obtained a general education development certificate, or be an honorably discharged veteran, among other requirements, and they cannot have been convicted of a felony or a major misdemeanor.

Dreamers pay taxes and they live and work in our communities as paramedics, teachers, and entrepreneurs; they purchase homes and automobiles and otherwise contribute to the national and their local economies. They have been subject to exhaustive background investigations to ensure they are not a security threat. They have called no country but the United States home.

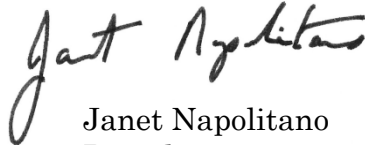
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As a former Secretary of Homeland Security, the governor of a border state, and now president of the University of California, I see the exceptional contributions that young Dreamers make to our country. Most are first in their families to attend college and they work hard to further their educations. These young men and women represent the very best of our country and they embody the spirit of the American dream.

I join with those who express our shared belief that these 800,000 Dreamers are—and rightfully should be—woven into the fabric of our country's democracy. I implore you, as legislative leaders, to take immediate action to pass a bi-partisan legislative solution that protects our nation's Dreamers.

The University of California, which represents 260,000 students, more than 200,000 faculty and staff, and nearly 2 million alumni, stands ready to work with you to address this critical issue. Thank you for your leadership and your public service to our country.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Janet Napolitano
President