

National Headquarters
8415 Datapoint Drive, Suite 400
San Antonio, Texas 78229
210-692-3805 (voice) 210-692-0823 (fax)
www.hacu.net



HACU
H I S P A N I C
A S S O C I A T I O N
O F C O L L E G E S &
U N I V E R S I T I E S

January 17, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building (Senate),
Room: S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Office of the Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Hart Senate Office Building, Room: 419
Constitution Ave. and 2nd St. NE
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building (House), Room: 204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Speaker of the House Ryan; Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations that collectively represent tens of millions of Americans in higher education and civil society, a cross-section of the nation's population, we wish to convey our strong support for fair and humane immigration reform, and particularly for the swift enactment of the DREAM Act that would provide a path to legal status and subsequent citizenship for DACA-protected immigrants. We urge you and your Congressional colleagues to proceed with due expediency on this pressing matter, which is supported by the vast majority of Americans.

We are dismayed by derogatory references to various countries of immigrant origin sometimes occasioned by these policy discussions. These references continue a sad history of prejudice against those considered "undesirable" at the moment. Had these exclusionary efforts been successful in the past, our own German, Irish, Italian, Eastern European, Chinese, etc., forebears would not have taken root in this country. Some of the current discourse similarly risks depriving future generations of Americans of the cultural vitality offered by 21st century immigrants. We wholeheartedly hope you and your Congressional peers would eschew and publically condemn this xenophobic and sometimes racist mentality.

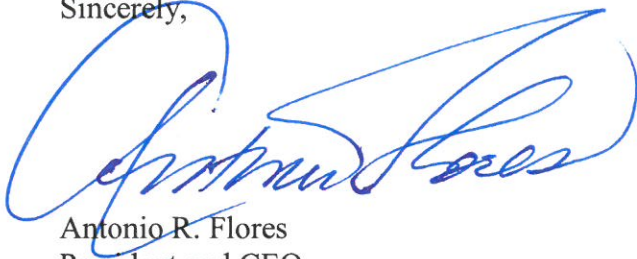
We are mindful of the continuing partisan discourse fomented by a few members of Congress on immigration reform issues. We trust that this divisiveness can be overcome by the type of bipartisan behavior and good will demonstrated by Senators Durbin and Graham, for example, and others who support efforts to find common ground for the good of the nation. We applaud and commend their patriotic conduct.

The Honorable Mitch McConnell, The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
January 17, 2018
Page 2

We appreciate the difficulties of leadership in these challenging times, but we hope your well-reasoned and persuasive guidance of the debate on immigration reform prevails, especially in passing the DREAM Act this week.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,



Antonio R. Flores
President and CEO

Additional organizations signing on to this letter:

ACPA-College Student Educators International
ACT
American Association of University Professors
American Federation of Teachers
American School Counselor Association
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"
Association of American Colleges and Universities
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities
NAFSA: Association of International Educators
NASPA: Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education
National Association for College Admission Counseling
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO)

CC: The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, Ranking Member, Senate Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chair, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Jerry Nadler, Ranking Member, House Judiciary Committee
The Honorable Richard J. Durbin, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Lindsey Graham, U.S. Senate