

ASSOCIATION of JESUIT COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES



May 15, 2024

Honorable Richard Durbin
Chair
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

BOSTON COLLEGE, MA
CANISIUS UNIVERSITY, NY
COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS, MA
CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY, NE
FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY, CT
FORDHAM UNIVERSITY, NY
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, DC
GONZAGA UNIVERSITY, WA
JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY, OH
LE MOYNE COLLEGE, NY
LOYOLA MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY, CA
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO, IL
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND, MD
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS, LA
MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, WI
REGIS UNIVERSITY, CO
ROCKHURST UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY, PA
SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY, MO
SAINT PETER'S UNIVERSITY, NJ
SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY, CA
SEATTLE UNIVERSITY, WA
SPRING HILL COLLEGE, AL
ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, BELIZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON, PA
UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY, MI
UNIVERSITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, CA
XAVIER UNIVERSITY, OH

Dear Senator Durbin and Senator Graham:

On behalf of the 27 U.S. member institutions of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU), I write to reiterate my strong support for S. 365: Dream Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation, introduced last February, will help provide a path toward citizenship for hundreds of thousands of individuals who call America their home, including students and graduates of Jesuit colleges and universities.

Our support for the Dream Act of 2023 builds upon our years of advocacy for Dreamers, DACA, and undocumented students. In 2016, AJCU stated:

“Grounded in our Catholic and Jesuit mission, we are guided by our commitment to uphold the dignity of every person, to work for the common good of our nation, and to promote a living faith that works for justice. We see our work of teaching, scholarship and the formation of minds and spirits as a sacred trust.

That calls us to labor for solidarity among all people, and especially with and for the poor and marginalized in our society. That trust calls us to embrace the entire human family, regardless of their immigration status or religious allegiance. And experience has shown us that our communities are immeasurably enriched by the presence, intelligence and contributions of undocumented students, as well as of faculty and staff of every color and from every faith tradition.”

We are deeply grateful to you for holding the recent hearing, “Dreams Deferred: The Urgent Need to Protect Immigrant Youth” in the Senate Judiciary Committee. It was an impactful reminder of your years of leadership on this critical issue, as well as your sustained efforts to spotlight and help Dreamers. Expert witnesses shared invaluable data and information during the hearing, but nothing is more powerful than hearing directly from Dreamers about their contributions to American society and their hopes for securing more stable footing in the country they call home.

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We are called to support this community. Dreamers have grown up here, made friends, learned to read and write, enrolled in college, served in the military, and been steadily employed. Dreamers and DACA recipients contribute to our nation's well-being, working selflessly in healthcare, public safety and public service, and are committed to keeping our country strong and thriving. The individuals who will benefit from this legislation work and pay taxes and contribute to our society and our economy in countless ways. They have lived their lives as Americans but without the legal status they so deserve.

Please know that the presidents of the nation's Jesuit colleges and universities stand with you to remedy this injustice and are committed to helping secure passage of the Dream Act of 2023. Thank you again for your tireless dedication.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael J. Garanzini, SJ". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Michael J. Garanzini, SJ

President

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities