September 6, 2017

The Honorable Speaker Paul Ryan  
1233-B Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Senator Tammy Baldwin  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Representative Sean Duffy  
2330 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Mike Gallagher  
1007 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Glenn Grothman  
1217 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Ron Kind  
1502 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Gwen Moore  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Mark Pocan  
1421 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Representative Jim Sensenbrenner  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program

Dear Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation,

Last week I wrote to the Trump Administration to express support for continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. With the September 5, 2017 announcement that DACA is being rescinded, I now write to you for action. On behalf of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, our state’s only public urban research university serving 26,000 students who comprise Wisconsin’s most diverse post-secondary student population, I write to strongly urge you and your Congressional colleagues to pass immigration reform legislation to prevent DACA recipients from losing protections when DACA ends on March 5, 2018.

DACA has provided its participants with conditional protection from deportation as well as the right to work and attend school in the United States. DACA students make significant contributions to public universities and communities across the country. Ending the program will place their significant social,
economic, and other contributions in jeopardy. Passing legislation that provides permanent relief, such as the DREAM Act, is an appropriate action to protect these young students.

Wisconsin follows the national trends regarding a prepared workforce. According to the Metropolitan Milwaukee Association of Commerce, by 2023 Wisconsin will experience a job shortage of 88,000 vacancies, of which 41% will require a college degree. This challenge is compounded by the fact that the population of traditional college-aged students is shrinking.

Our state is already experiencing or is projecting shortages in critically important fields including engineering, health care, teaching, information technology, and others. The projected gap between jobs and workers means that we will benefit from encouraging and supporting everyone who wants to pursue higher education. Supporting DACA enrollees in their aspirations to citizenship and the attainment of a college degree equates to support for a healthy economy and citizenry.

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee joins the Association on Public-Land Grant Universities and many other higher education groups across the country in support of the protections provided DACA. By debating and passing comprehensive immigration reform, DACA recipients will continue to have the clarity and certainty necessary to advance their lives, serve the economic needs of our country, and contribute positively to society.

We sincerely appreciate your consideration of these comments. The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee is prepared to work with you and your Congressional colleagues to enact comprehensive immigration reform.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Mone
Mark A. Mone Ph.D.
Chancellor

cc: UW System President Ray Cross