



*From the Office of the President*

**John P. Fitzgibbons, S.J.**  
REGIS UNIVERSITY | DENVER, COLORADO

**Regis Signs Letter Urging DACA Policy to Remain  
August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

*Note: Regis University and the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities signed the following letter along with 34 other higher education associations. Sent from the American Council on Education, it urges President Trump to keep the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy until a better alternative policy can be found.*

Dear President Trump:

We understand that your administration is considering the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. We write today to strongly urge you to ensure that DACA continues to remain in effect until a longer term solution can be put in place.

You have said on several occasions that your administration would seek to help Dreamers because, as you rightly noted, they are "incredible kids." The high-achieving young people in DACA contribute in many ways to our nation. Preserving their status while your administration and Congress work on a permanent solution is the humane way to respond to the situation these innocent young people are facing. Children brought to the United States at a young age did not have a choice in the matter. It remains in America's best interest to enable them to use their knowledge, skills and energy to make the strongest possible contribution to our country.

At present, roughly 800,000 individuals are registered under DACA. To qualify, applicants must pass a rigorous, multi-faceted test. They must have arrived in the United States before age 16, have resided here continuously since 2012, be enrolled in or have completed high school, have not been convicted of a serious crime, and not present a threat to national security or public safety. The United States is the only country they know: They are American, just like their classmates and friends, in every way but immigration status.

These bright and talented young people are working, serving in the armed services or studying at colleges and universities. Because they now have work permits, they are making contributions to our society and our economy. They are paying taxes and buying cars, homes, and consumer goods, which generates economic activity and increases tax revenue for federal, state and local governments. While they contribute significantly to our economy, they are ineligible for federal means-tested welfare benefits, Pell Grants and federal student loans, and health care tax subsidies. According to a recent study by the CATO Institute, deporting those currently in DACA would cost over \$60 billion in lost tax revenue and result in a \$280 billion reduction in economic growth over the next decade.



You may recall that on March 16, 2017, 560 college and university presidents sent you a letter requesting that you preserve DACA. On behalf of these college leaders, we urge you to continue your promise to support the Dreamers and preserve DACA while seeking a permanent solution, and allow these productive and high-achieving individuals to continue to work, study and contribute to our great country.