



September 14, 2017

The Honorable Jackie Speier
United States House of Representatives
2465 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Speier:

I am writing to you on behalf of the students, families, employees and community members of the San Mateo County Community College District to urge the United States Congress to take immediate action to provide a permanent solution for Dreamer students. I am making this same appeal to Congresswoman Eshoo and Senators Feinstein and Harris.

Our District strongly objects to ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and believes that its elimination is callous, harmful and undermines the fundamental reality that our country was formed as a nation of immigrants. Last week's announcement by Attorney General Sessions regarding the Trump administration's intentions to rescind the DACA program was very unfortunate, but sadly, not unexpected. Regretfully, President Trump has used the full weight and authority of the United States government to intimidate and incite unnecessary fear in Dreamers who want nothing more than to have a safe and welcoming environment in which to learn and thrive.

As you know, the DACA program has provided undocumented students an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and skills that will help them create better lives for themselves and their families. Ending DACA will needlessly harm and punish these students for something that was no fault of their own. The elimination of this program is in direct conflict with the San Mateo County Community College District's core values of social justice and providing high quality education to anyone who can benefit from post-secondary learning. Our District will is – and will remain – deeply committed to serving all students, regardless of their immigration status.

The tremendous anxiety and deep-rooted fear of our undocumented students who simply want to learn, live and prosper in our local community is truly heartbreaking. We implore you to seek a legislative remedy that will provide the undocumented students of our District and those across the nation with a permanent, lasting opportunity to realize the *American Dream* through a viable DACA program or other protections that achieve this important protection.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this critical issue with you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Ron Galatolo
Chancellor

Again, thank you so much for your
steadfast support of our "dreamers"!!