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United States Senate

December 19, 2017

Mr. Ben A. Heller
Chair of the Faculty Senate
University of Notre Dame
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Dear Mr. Heller,

Thank you for taking the time to contact me about our nation's immigration policies. Like you, I believe that our immigration system is broken, and I have long argued that Congress should implement effective, long-term immigration reform.

In June 2012, President Obama began the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which is a two-year, renewable program that allows for the deferral of deportation actions for young, undocumented immigrants who meet certain criteria, including educational, criminal, and age requirements. On September 5, 2017, President Trump announced that he is terminating the DACA program and will begin to phase out its protections in March 2018.

On July 20, 2017, S. 1615, the *Dream Act*, was introduced in the Senate. If passed, this legislation would provide a pathway to lawful permanent residency, and eventually citizenship, to undocumented young people who are eligible for DACA or meet similar standards. In order to receive protection under the *Dream Act*, individuals would be required to meet certain eligibility criteria, including confirmation that they came to the United States as minors, are proficient in English and U.S. history, have pursued an education or military service, have not committed any crimes, and do not pose a security threat.

Upending existing protections for the nearly 10,000 young people in Indiana who have qualified for DACA and have lived in this country for most of their lives is not the path we should take. I believe that our country is still in need of comprehensive immigration reform, but in the interim, Congress should pass legislation to give these young people who were brought here through no fault of their own some clarity and stability.

The *Dream Act* is currently pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Should this legislation come to the floor of the Senate for a vote, I will be sure to keep your thoughts in mind.

It is a privilege to represent you and all Hoosiers in the U.S. Senate. Your continued correspondence is welcome and helps me to better represent our state. I encourage you to write, call, or email if my office can ever be of assistance. You can also check out my Facebook page and follow me on Twitter by visiting my website (www.donnelly.senate.gov). Please note when contacting my Senate office that I am only able to respond to questions or concerns related to official Senate business. As such, this letter addresses the issues you raised, which relate to my work in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joe Donnelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Joe" and last name "Donnelly" clearly legible.

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator