Dear Senator:

The Faculty Senate of the University of Notre Dame urges you to work on and pass legislation within the next five months that will continue the current protections of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

There is currently a sizeable number of undergraduates at the University of Notre Dame who rely on the protection of DACA and who would be profoundly and adversely affected by its discontinuation. In a public statement on September 5, 2017, the President of the University of Notre Dame, John I. Jenkins, expressed the following:

A decision to discontinue DACA would be foolish, cruel and un-American. Foolish because it drives away talented people the country needs; cruel because it abandons people who have done nothing wrong and have known life only in the United States; and un-American because we have always welcomed immigrants to our land of opportunity.

In coming days, I hope to meet with congressional leaders to argue for a permanent fix to this pressing problem. In the meantime, Notre Dame will continue to support DACA students financially, maintain their enrollment even if Congress fails to act and provide expert legal assistance should it become necessary.

The Faculty Senate is in complete agreement with Father Jenkins in this. We therefore ask that you help pass legislation that will extend the guarantees of DACA into the future. DACA recipients number almost 800,000 people. They are neighbors, co-workers, members of our faith communities, and students in our classes, who have lived here essentially all their lives and know no other home.

The Faculty Senate of the University of Notre Dame is made up of a politically and intellectually diverse group of individuals who represent an even more diverse group of faculty members across the university. The undersigned members of the Faculty Senate are united in the belief that DACA should be continued and that DACA students enrich our communities as they enrich the University of Notre Dame.
DACA students are valued members of the Notre Dame family. We stand by them. They should have the right to continue their education with us.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Members of the Faculty Senate of the University of Notre Dame

Ben A. Heller, Chair of the Faculty Senate  
Department of Romance Languages and Literatures  
343 O'Shaughnessy Hall  
University of Notre Dame  
Notre Dame IN 46556  
Contact: telephone: 574 631 6556; email: bheller@nd.edu

Jeanne Romero-Severson, Vice Chair of the Faculty Senate  
Department of Biological Sciences

Annie Coleman  
Department of American Studies

Natalie Porter  
Department of Anthropology

Xiaoshan Yang  
Department of East Asian Language and Cultures

David Gasperetti  
Department of German/Russian Language and Literature

Mary Frandsen  
Department of Music

Benjamin Radcliff  
Department of Political Science

Tarek Dika  
Program in Liberal Studies

Richard Williams  
Department of Sociology

Samir Younes  
School of Architecture

Chao-Shin Liu  
Department of Accountancy
Nasir Ghiaseddin
Department of Information Technology, Analytics and Operations

Joe Urbany
Department of Marketing

Meng Wang
Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering

Paul McGinn
Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Sergei Rouvimov
Department of Electrical Engineering

Molly Walsh
Department of Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics

Mei-Chi Shaw
Department of Mathematics

Adam Martin
Department of Physics

Anna Simon
Department of Physics

Marsha Stevenson
Hesburgh Libraries

Marie Halvorsen-Ganepola
Department of Management and Organization

Matthew Capdevielle
University Writing Program

Richard Pierce
Department of History

Jimmy Gurulé
School of Law

Phil Sloan
Program of Liberal Studies, Emeritus
Thomas Nowak
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Emeritus

John Henry Hobgood
Student Government, Visitor

Sibonay Shewit
Student Government, Visitor