

## **Resolution: Statement of Support for Students Affected by DACA**

Introduced by Senators Jennifer Hunt, Ann Emo, Lisa Fronckowiak, Kimberly Kline, Meg Knowles, Heather Maldonado, Kathrine Morales, Andrea Nikischer, Ramona Santa Maria, and Amy Wilson

**Whereas**, on September 5, 2017, President Trump ordered an end to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which protects young people who were brought to the United States illegally as children, shielding them from immediate deportation and giving them the right to work and/or pursue education,

**Whereas**, the termination of DACA threatens the personal and educational futures of the young people in the program, who are not responsible for coming to the United States without documentation, who have built lives, contributed to their communities, and pursued education in the United States, and who in many cases have no memories of lives outside of the United States,

**Whereas**, in New York State, there are 42,000 students who are part of the DACA program, including students enrolled at Buffalo State,

**Whereas**, on September 5, 2017, SUNY Board of Trustees Chair H. Carl McCall and SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson issued a statement in which they “urge[d] Congress to act swiftly and decisively to protect the earned rights of DACA enrollees” and affirmed that “SUNY’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion will not falter,”

**Whereas**, the administrations of dozens of colleges, universities, and university systems throughout the country have issued statements opposing the termination of DACA and expressing support for affected students (*Chronicle of Higher Education*, Sept. 5, 2017),

**Whereas**, Buffalo State’s Mission Statement affirms that “Buffalo State is a diverse and inclusive college committed to the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni,” and “respect for diversity and individual differences” is one of Buffalo State’s core values,

### **Be it resolved that,**

1. The Buffalo State College Senate endorses the statement released by SUNY on September 5, 2017 that calls for swift efforts to protect the rights of students enrolled in DACA.
2. The following statement of support from the Buffalo State College Senate will be distributed widely to students at Buffalo State.

The Buffalo State College Senate stands in support of all students who may be affected by recent orders by the President to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Students enrolled in DACA, often referred to as the Dreamers, were brought to the United States as children. They have built lives in the United States and contributed to their communities. By enrolling in Buffalo State, they have demonstrated their commitment to the pursuit of education and the betterment of their lives and

the lives of their families and communities. Their diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives enrich the campus community and the educational experiences at the college. The Dreamers are valued members of the Buffalo State community, and we, the faculty, staff, and students of the College Senate, embrace their dreams.

Many students may be experiencing uncertainty and anxiety about what the order to terminate DACA will mean for their future. The Buffalo State College Senate pledges our support to these students as they negotiate these challenging times. We believe that the pursuit of education is a fundamental right that should be available to all, and we will support students as they work toward this goal, regardless of immigration status. Buffalo State's mission is to be "a diverse and inclusive college committed to the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni." This mission applies equally to all students, and we will not waiver from it in the face of threats to DACA.

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## Statement by SUNY Chairman H. Carl McCall and Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson on Repeal of DACA

September 5, 2017

"The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is the American Dream in motion. We are extremely disappointed to learn that this important program could come to an end without a fair and permanent solution for those who would be impacted. We urge Congress to act swiftly and decisively to protect the earned rights of DACA enrollees.

"Together with leadership across our 64 colleges and universities and our colleagues nationally, SUNY wholly supports efforts by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo and Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to protect New York's 42,000 DACA enrollees so that they may continue to live the American Dream. SUNY's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion will not falter."