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January 25, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Coffman  
2443 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Luis Gutiérrez  
2408 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Durbin and Graham and Representatives Coffman and Gutiérrez:

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), a membership organization of more than 470 colleges and universities committed to championing Hispanic success in higher education, and the undersigned organizations representing thousands of institutions of higher education and communities across the nation, strongly support the Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act (BRIDGE) Act (S. 128 and HR 496). We commend you for your leadership with this bill.

We agree with the intent of the BRIDGE Act to provide temporary relief to the more than 752,000 individuals, also known as DREAMers, from deportation and ensure employment authorization to those who are eligible for the Department of Homeland Security's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The DACA program has allowed these young people to come out of the shadows and temporarily have an opportunity at the American dream. However, DACA and the BRIDGE Act are only stopgap measures; what is needed is the passage of the DREAM Act and ultimately fair, just, and comprehensive immigration reform.

DREAMers are a key segment of our nation's talent pool, doing all we could ask of them: they have succeeded in American PK-12 schools, overcome obstacles to pursue further education, remained law-abiding, and sought to make their contribution to our nation. It only makes sense to continue to allow them to make that contribution without fear of deportation.

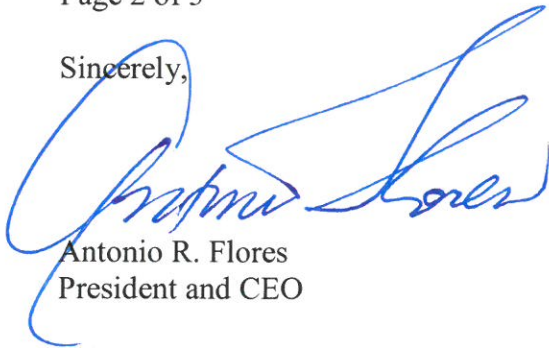
We will continue to work with Congress and the new Administration to reform our immigration system in a common-sense manner. However, timely enactment of the BRIDGE Act would help ensure that these young individuals who were brought to this nation as children and contribute so much to our communities can continue to live their lives free from fear of deportation and separation from their families.

We are committed to working with you and other supporters in Congress until the BRIDGE Act is signed into law. Please feel free to contact me at 210-576-3214 [antonio.flores@hacu.net](mailto:antonio.flores@hacu.net). Thank you for your continued leadership in this important legislative initiative.

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The Honorable Mike Coffman  
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The Honorable Richard Durbin  
The Honorable Luis Gutiérrez

Sincerely,



Antonio R. Flores  
President and CEO

Additional organizations signing on to this letter:

American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE)  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)  
American College Personnel Association (ACPA)  
American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
APPA: Leadership in Educational Facilities  
Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)  
Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA)  
Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU)  
Association of Research Libraries (ARL)  
The California State University (CSU)  
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo  
California State Polytechnic University, Pomona  
California State University, Bakersfield  
California State University, Channel Islands  
California State University, Dominguez Hills  
California State University, East Bay  
California State University, Fresno  
California State University, Fullerton  
California State University, Long Beach  
California State University, Northridge  
California State University, Sacramento  
California State University, San Bernardino  
California State University, Stanislaus  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI)  
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCCU)  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)  
Council for Opportunity in Education (COE)  
EDUCAUSE  
Humboldt State University  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU)  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA)

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San Diego State University  
San Francisco State University  
San Jose State University  
SER - Jobs for Progress National Inc.  
Sonoma State University  
Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA)  
The University of Michigan  
The University of New Mexico  
U.S.-Mexico Foundation  
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Cc: The Honorable Paul D. Ryan, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
HACU Governing Board Members