



August 30, 2017

Dear Members of the Minnesota Congressional Delegation:

On behalf of the 37 colleges and universities of Minnesota State (formerly MnSCU) throughout the State of Minnesota, I am writing to urge you to work in Congress to preserve the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. It is my understanding that the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate will soon continue work on their respective Fiscal Year 2018 funding packages. Should your respective Chamber have an opportunity to affirm and preserve DACA through an amendment or other process, I strongly urge you to consider doing so. At Minnesota State we appreciate the continued work that you do on behalf of our colleges, universities, students, faculty, and staff. We stand ready to provide you and your office with any additional information about this or any other issue that may be before you in Washington, D.C.

Our core mission at Minnesota State is to offer higher education to more than 375,000 students every year. Our colleges and universities are dedicated to helping all Minnesotans to build a better future for themselves and to sustaining our state's diverse and vibrant economy by supplying business and industry across the state with a highly educated workforce. Minnesota State serves more than 63,000 students of color, 48,500 first-generation college students, and 84,000 students with modest financial means. Terminating or phasing out DACA will leave thousands of young people, including many of our students, in limbo. Hence, we strongly urge you to work toward and implement a long-term solution that supports DACA students.

Minnesota State maintains our steadfast commitment to ensuring that our campuses will remain safe and welcoming places of inclusion, hope, and opportunity for all students and employees. Students who are currently protected by DACA came to America through no choice of their own, and Minnesota has long benefited from the economic, scientific, and cultural contributions of international students, scholars, and immigrants from around the globe. It is in our best interest to have students use their intellect and skills to continue contributing to our vibrant communities and our economy, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to recruit this talent to our state and to our colleges and universities.

Once again, I want to thank you for your work in Washington D.C. on behalf of all Minnesota State students, and I urge you to consider actions before Congress that would preserve DACA. Further and as stated previously, I would like to signal our strong desire to work with you on

this and other very important issues that impact our students, faculty, and staff. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you or your staff on this or any other matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Malhotra", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Devinder Malhotra
Chancellor