

November 29, 2016

Adam F. Falk
President

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Markey,

I am writing to urge you to do everything you can to see that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program is not eliminated. Such an action would have devastating consequences for students who have relied on the assurances made to them when they registered. Worse, it would drive hundreds of thousands of young women and men back into a contingent, ambiguous and frightening relationship with the society in which they live.

All those eligible for the DACA program arrived in this country as children. For many of them, this country is the only one they've known, and America is as much their home as it is for any citizen. For these young people, the prospect of deportation does not represent returning home; it represents exile. To send these young people away would be inhumane. It would be inhumane, too, to threaten them with deportation.

We have students in the DACA program here at Williams College. They contribute greatly to the education of all our students; they lead in the classroom, in organizations across campus, and in our local community. They appreciate, and make full use of, every opportunity open to them. They then go on as graduates to enrich their communities and professions across the country, contributing to social and economic growth. Our college and our nation are richer with them; both would be poorer without them.

I urge to make maintaining, and even expanding, this critical program an immediate priority. We do not have much time to make our voices heard.

Sincerely yours,



Adam F. Falk

AFF/alw