

THE FIVE COLLEGES OF OHIO

Denison University Kenyon College Oberlin College Ohio Wesleyan University The College of Wooster

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman,

For almost two centuries, Ohio liberal arts colleges have helped young people make a difference in our state and our nation, regardless of their country of origin. Ohio and our institutions have been pioneers in extending educational opportunity for all, a reflection of America's values of equality and enterprise. We ask you now to stand with us to safeguard this path to higher education by maintaining the protections of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

DACA students – who have defied every obstacle in order to pursue education at our colleges and others around the state – are persistent, talented, and successful members of our academic communities. They grew up in our country, excelled in its high schools, and now stand ready to contribute to our nation. Cutting short their educations through threatened deportation denies them – and us – the promise of that future.

We urge you to uphold the provisions of DACA and take legislative action to move beyond executive order to a law ensuring its continuation. A permanent path forward for these students, American in all but legal status, secures their education and the valuable role they play on our campuses today and in Ohio and the world tomorrow.

Liberal arts colleges are a uniquely American innovation, founded on the promise of open inquiry, critical discourse that looks beyond a single perspective, and a pursuit of knowledge that knows no color or border. Keeping a seat in our classroom and a place in our nation's communities for these talented young people is essential to these common values and to our common future.



Carmen Twillie Ambar, President
Oberlin College and Conservatory



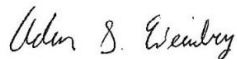
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