

James R. Johnsen, Ed.D.  
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September 11, 2017

The Honorable Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senate  
525 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Don Young  
United States House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dan Sullivan  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murkowski, Senator Sullivan and Congressman Young:

I am writing to express my concern about the President's recent action to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The educational success of every University of Alaska student is one of my highest priorities, and while I understand there are a number of unresolved issues relative to the DACA program, I am very concerned about any of our students who may be impacted.

The University of Alaska is dedicated to developing a diverse, educated and competitive workforce for Alaska. As you can appreciate, recent events have introduced emotional turmoil and uncertainty into the lives of some students and if not quickly resolved, may prevent them from realizing their full academic and professional potential. That is not only damaging to the lives and ambitions of these students, but it is harmful to the long-term health of Alaska's economy. While the number of DACA beneficiaries in Alaska may be small, failing to resolve this issue will have lasting repercussions to schools and institutes of higher education across the country.

I strongly encourage Congress to work to find a fair and expeditious solution, one that ensures that all students have access to the full-range of opportunities the University of Alaska provides.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'James R. Johnsen'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James R. Johnsen  
President, University of Alaska