

# STATEMENT on SUPPORTING MIT DACA STUDENTS

The MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) and Undergraduate Association (UA) represent over 11,000 graduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). We firmly support policies that protect the rights of all students regardless of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, ancestry, national or ethnic origin, or immigration status. Therefore, the GSC and UA firmly oppose any government actions that would result in the deportation of students enrolled at MIT, including undocumented students. As such, we offer our strong support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

**The GSC and UA urge Congress to act to pass legislation permanently securing the protected status of the approximately 800,000 beneficiaries enrolled in DACA.**

**We also urge the President and the Department of Homeland Security to suspend any activities that could lead to deportation of DACA recipients until such a permanent program can be established.**

We believe all DACA recipients deserve the right to stay in America without fear of deportation. Many DACA recipients have called the United States their home since childhood and know no country other than America. They are our friends, neighbors, classmates, teachers, co-workers, and soldiers who contribute to the betterment of our society. Our country has invested in their future and education throughout their lives, and expelling them would represent both a moral and economic failure.

We believe this issue should be resolved swiftly and that it is possible to do so in a bipartisan manner through bills such as the [Bridge Act](#) (H.R. 496) and the 2017 [Dream Act](#) (S. 1615 & H.R. 3440). **We strongly support passage of either of these bills.**

We stand in solidarity with members of the DACA program and will support our DACA peers at MIT to our fullest capacity. We are committed to cultivating a supportive, secure, and respectful environment for all of our fellow students at MIT. The GSC and UA will continue to collaborate with the MIT senior administration and MIT International Students Office to ensure that DACA recipients have the same student life experiences and learning opportunities as documented students. As MIT Chancellor Cynthia Barnhart recently stated, “every MIT student deserves the same opportunities to study, to work, to travel—in short, to thrive here.”

*This statement was written and prepared on behalf of the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) and Undergraduate Association (UA) by the GSC Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee (DIS) and GSC External Affairs Board.*

