In the vision statement for Ohio University, we find the following goal: “Ohio University will be the nation's best transformative learning community where students realize their promise.” We stand by this vision as a guiding principle for the treatment of all students, regardless of birthplace, identity, or background. All students deserve access to opportunities for education, and we affirm this as a right for those born or raised in the United States of America.

The Trump Administration's call to end the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program stands in direct contempt of the vision of Ohio University. As leaders in education, we must be committed to the pursuit of knowledge, growth, and a future for all. Statistics from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services reveal that the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program protects nearly 800,000 “dreamers” across this country from deportation should they choose to join the military or pursue higher education. Yet, as students, DACA beneficiaries are not just numbers on paper; they are our peers, our roommates, and our friends.

Ensuring the DACA promise is a moral imperative. Should this program come to an end, the fabric of our community will be irreparably harmed with no clear way to heal. As members of the International Affairs Commission on the Ohio University Student Senate, we call on Congress to uphold and expand the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. In doing so, we stand with over 600 institutions for higher education who recognize the benefits of this program to our students, our campus, and our community.
Any student raised and educated in our community is an inseparable and valued member of the Bobcat family. We stand with President Nellis as he travels to Washington D.C. in order to urge our representatives in congress to take a stand for DACA, and advocate on behalf our Bobcat family, all of whom are positively impacted by the DACA program. We call on the leadership of Ohio University to begin developing a plan that will allow DACA recipients to complete their education at OHIO regardless of changes to their immigration status.

For students with questions or concerns, please reach out to the International Affairs Commission of Student Senate. Students should also feel free to reach out to Ohio’s representatives in congress.