

ASBMB statement on Trump's decision to end DACA

In response to President Donald J. Trump's decision to end DACA, the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology released the following statement:

The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, which represents more than 10,000 scientists throughout the world, strongly condemns the actions taken by President Donald Trump to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, and supports congressional action to codify this important policy into law.

The life science research enterprise is built upon a diverse group of people engaged in intellectual evidence-based discourse of diverse ideas. Successful, innovative and thoughtful life science research for all can succeed only if principles of inclusiveness, understanding and diversity provide the foundation for future biomedical discoveries.

Ending DACA is another signal by the Trump administration that the United States is no longer welcoming of immigrants and foreign workers. Ending DACA further contributes to a hostile atmosphere for the international scientific community, slamming the doors on talented foreign students and scientists dreaming of conducting research at our best institutions and universities.

The ASBMB is committed to diversity, inclusion and ensuring that science is a global enterprise. International cooperation and a gifted workforce in the United States are fundamental to the recent breakthroughs in science. As mentioned in our previous statement, 20 percent of our members live and work abroad, and nearly 60 percent of postdoctoral fellows are temporary U.S. residents. The United States must not dim its beacon to the world's best and brightest.

We at the ASBMB urge Congress to act immediately on behalf of DACA recipients, also known as Dreamers. These individuals have been shown to contribute greatly to the economy. Also, a number of Dreamers are scientists participating in important life-saving discoveries as postdocs, graduate students, and staff researchers. Congress has the chance and obligation to protect these Dreamers from the threat of deportation and once again lift our lamp beside the golden door. Now is the time to act.