

LETTER FROM UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS PETITIONING THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA TO BECOME A SANCTUARY CAMPUS

Dear President Gutmann, Provost Price and Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania:

First and foremost, we thank the students, alumni, faculty and staff who have shown support for undocumented students on campus and for our mission to make Penn a Sanctuary Campus. It is relieving to see that, despite the rise of anti-immigrant rhetoric, we can rely on the support of leaders in our community who are willing to advocate for us. While these acts of solidarity have been meaningful, this letter was written by the undocumented students at the University of Pennsylvania to express our concerns and imminent demands.

President-elect Trump has promised to deport millions of undocumented immigrants from the United States and end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program, we do not feel safe. President-elect Donald Trump has announced Kris Kobach, the mastermind behind anti-immigrant bills, like Arizona's SB1070, as his immigration advisor. On Tuesday, November 15th, 2016 Kobach made it clear the Trump administration will enact anti-immigrant policies harsh enough to lead undocumented immigrants to self-deport. Further, Stephen Bannon, a white supremacist, has been declared Trump's Senior White House Advisor and Chief Strategist and, in this capacity, will guide the implementation of federal policies. These promises and early actions, like many other central tenets of Trump's platform, are direct attacks on undocumented immigrants and their families. **Contrary to common misconceptions, these attacks affect immigrants of all backgrounds, not just the Latin-American community.** As undocumented students of the University of Pennsylvania and the Philadelphia community at large, we strongly urge you to outline how Penn plans to support and protect students. We would like to hear how the University will implement any necessary actions to make our institution a Sanctuary Campus for our students, alumni and employees that may be subject to these threats. Undocumented students and employees on our campus are now confronted with extraordinary risks and need to hear how the University intends to support and protect students and employees.

Establishing the University of Pennsylvania as a Sanctuary Campus is a tangible and concrete response that many other institutions across the nation are advocating for, including Harvard University, Brown University, Yale University, Princeton University, Tufts University, UC Berkeley, and UC San Diego - to name a few. As an internal 2011 memo explains¹, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers are subject to certain restrictions upon entering college campuses unauthorized. Thus, the University is authorized to protect undocumented community members from law enforcement by barring their entry and refusing

¹ <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/ero-outreach/pdf/10029.2-policy.pdf>

cooperation. We urge President Amy Gutmann and the University of Pennsylvania to use this authorization to protect the rights and safety of its community members.

We urge the University to take action to make the University a Sanctuary Campus. The University can and should affirmatively stand with undocumented immigrants (regardless of DACA status) who study, live and work at the University. The University of Pennsylvania can become a Sanctuary Campus by adopting a public and written policy communicating the following:

1. **The University of Pennsylvania refuses to share any and all information with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)/Customs and Border Protection (CBP)/U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) across all aspects of the University to the fullest extent possible under the law.** If information must be shared for the processing of educational enrollment, Visa maintenance, DACA student advance parole, etc., the University of Pennsylvania **must obtain consent from the student or staff whose information would be shared prior to sending any information to ICE/CBP/USCIS. If no consent is given, no information shall be shared.** The University of Pennsylvania must also refuse ICE/CBP physical access to all land owned or controlled by the University, including participation in any career and job recruitment events at the University.
2. **The University of Pennsylvania prohibits the University's Department of Public Safety and all contracted security personnel from inquiring about or recording an individual's immigration status.** The University of Pennsylvania also prohibits the University's Department of Public Safety and all contracted security personnel from enforcing immigration laws and collaborating or participating with ICE/CBP.
3. **The University of Pennsylvania commits to ensuring current undocumented and DACA recipients will continue to receive financial aid, fellowship stipends, as well as any related support** (coverage of health insurance and any student fees, etc.) that is currently being provided or that will be needed for these students to be able to complete their studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Additionally, the University must reevaluate their formula to calculate a student and parent's financial contribution to take into account the possibility that either the student or their main parent or guardian is deported or unable to work because of anti-immigration reform. Student Financial Services (SFS) must reply in a timely manner with any information for or requested by undocumented students. The University needs to remind SFS about their obligation to undocumented and DACA recipients in terms of financial aid awards and work with SFS to clarify how financial aid is broken down and where student payments are made. The

University must also expand existing funds and establish a distinct budget for undocumented students and students in mixed-status families to cover fees associated with immigration-related legal proceedings. This includes emergency funding for undocumented students, in the case of emergencies like the deportation of a family member.

4. **The University of Pennsylvania will immediately hire a full-time advisor to support the specific needs of undocumented and DACA-mented students at the undergraduate and graduate levels.** This advisor will receive a list of undocumented students on campus, meet with them upon their arrival to campus and continue to check-in throughout and advocate for this community throughout their tenure at the University. This advisor will be able to ensure confidentiality, become familiarized with the specific challenges of undocumented and DACA-mented students, provide additional wellness support and refer students to resources with a deeper understanding of their unique needs. This advisor will act as a liaison between institutions on the University's campus, such as SFS or the Registrar, in the case that such institutions are not knowledgeable about the needs of undocumented students or when a student is not comfortable sharing their citizenship status. The advisor will also keep up to date with national policies regarding immigration that affect students, like DACA and DAPA.

The University of Pennsylvania is located in a Sanctuary City, or a "fourth amendment" city, as termed by Mayor Kenney. Kenney describes our city as a place where "we respect and live up to the Fourth Amendment, which means you can't be held against your will without a warrant from the court signed by a judge" (Terruso, 2016). As a "fourth amendment" and Sanctuary City, **Philadelphia has banned all collaboration between city-police and ICE/CBP since April 2014 and recommitted to such a policy again in January 2015. By establishing the University of Pennsylvania as a Sanctuary Campus, the University aligns with the city of Philadelphia** and its current stance on immigration.

Philadelphia has committed itself to remaining a Sanctuary City and a "fourth amendment" city during Trump's presidency. As noted by Kenney's November 10th statement: "...we will continue to be a Fourth Amendment city abiding by the Constitution" (Terruso, 2016). In addition to the city's pro-immigrant policies, Philadelphia currently has a 24/7 hotline, run by community volunteers, that provides physical support and resources to undocumented community members who experience or witness raids. Additionally, our city is home to the Philadelphia Family Unity Network (PFUN), which is the citywide coalition that brought about the sanctuary policy that ended ICE and Police collaboration in Philadelphia in 2014 and has ensured its continuation since. The coalition is made up of Juntos, New Sanctuary Movement, 1LoveMovement, Pennsylvania Immigrant and Citizenship Coalition and Victim/Witness

Services of South Philadelphia. **All of these are experienced social justice organizations that the University of Pennsylvania should be listening to, learning from, and partnering with as it prepares to protect members of our community** that we know will be targeted by Trump's administration. **The University's leadership in incorporating our city's well-established pro-immigrant policies is necessary and is needed now more than ever.**

The University of Pennsylvania rightly offers admission to students without regard to their status and President Gutmann has previously expressed support for the DREAM Act in 2013. However the DREAM Act is now not a tangible solution since it failed in the Senate in 2010. DACA and university-level actions are currently the only existing methods to protect undocumented students. It is vital that the University take the necessary steps to create a University action plan that will be in place if national, state or local anti-immigration policies comes into effect. We believe that the University of Pennsylvania's commitment to diversity and inclusion as emphasized in the University's Compact, must come with a steadfast promise to fight against the racist, xenophobic and hateful ideologies and actions forwarded by the president-elect.

We cannot remain silent or inactive bystanders. We stand ready to work in partnership with the University's administration to support the communities it so warmly invited to campus with the plan to to increase access to education for all.

Respectfully awaiting your swift action,

The Undocumented Community and Alumni of the University of Pennsylvania