**SOMERVILLE PUBLIC
SCHOOLS SCHOOL
COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION TO AFFIRM SOMERVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
AS SAFE AND WELCOMING FOR ALL STUDENTS**

WHEREAS, the mission of Somerville Public Schools ("SPS") is to maintain a multicultural school community dedicated to the realization of the full intellectual, physical, social, and emotional potential of its students;

WHEREAS, SPS is also committed to providing a safe and welcoming learning environment in order to increase achievement and access for all students irrespective of their immigration status, national origin, ethnicity, race, religion, sexual orientation, sex and gender identity, socio-economic status, disability status, or beliefs;

WHEREAS, the City is enriched and strengthened by its diverse cultural heritage, multinational population, and welcoming attitude toward newcomers;

WHEREAS, education plays a critical role in furthering tolerance and inclusivity within our society;

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution prohibits states from denying students a public elementary or secondary education on account of their immigration status;

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, among other factors, by public elementary and secondary schools (Title IV) and by recipients of federal financial assistance (Title VI);

WHEREAS, recent national political events surrounding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) have caused some to question whether the United States is still committed to being a welcoming home for immigrants, and

WHEREAS, the DACA program is intended to protect educational access and work privileges for young students, referred to as DREAMERS, who were brought to the United States before their 16th birthday;

WHEREAS, these students have been in the United States for many years attending school and working;

WHEREAS, there are approximately 800,000 such students in the United States who will be affected by the termination of the DACA program unless the President or Congress takes action to continue it;

WHEREAS, it has been reported that of the approximately 800,000 youths attending school or working following approval of their DACA applications, about 65,000 DREAMERS graduate each year from American high schools.

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools proudly welcomes DREAMERS and DACA eligible students to enroll in the Somerville Public Schools, as is their constitutional right without regard to their nationality or citizenship, and

WHEREAS, many of our children, family members and neighbors are DREAMERS whose presence in our schools enriches the community and broadens the perspectives of all our students and staff

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that, based on these facts, values and Somerville's longstanding commitment to equity, inclusiveness, and fundamental fairness manifest in a school system which welcomes all students, regardless of national origin or citizenship, the Somerville School Committee urges its United States Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, United States Representative Michael Capuano, Governor Charles Baker, Attorney General Healey, State Senator Patricia Jehlen, and Massachusetts State Representatives Denise Provost, Michael Connolly, and Christine Barber to take all steps necessary to support the continuation of the DACA program, including, but not limited to, sponsoring and supporting federal and state legislation to do so, and thereby assuring that all our neighbors continue to have access to a public education in Somerville and an opportunity to pursue higher education in a university, college or vocational setting.

RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be delivered to the Governor Baker, Attorney General Healey, United States Senators Edward Markey and Elizabeth Warren, United States Representative Michael Capuano and the Somerville state and local legislative delegations and otherwise widely distributed.

VOTED: Unanimously

DATE: September 11, 2017

BY THE: Somerville School Committee