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February 27, 2017

Dear Community Charter School of Cambridge Families,

In light of recent action by the office of the President in changing federal immigration policies, threatening to withhold federal funds from sanctuary cities, and giving Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) unprecedented authority to target undocumented citizens, we felt it was important to share with you how thankful and proud we are to be part of such a vibrant and diverse school community. We want to reassure you that we unequivocally commit to support, protect, and stand by every student, faculty member, and staff member at CCSC; including our immigrant, refugee, undocumented, and Muslim students and families. As a public charter school, we have a moral and a legal obligation to enroll and serve every child who attends our school, without regard to their immigration status, and without fear of discrimination. Our focus will continue to be on providing all students in our schools with the academic and social-emotional guidance and support that will allow them to develop into successful, contributing members of our communities.

As always, we want to emphasize that our role as educators is foremost to support all of our students, to help them and their families feel safe, and to provide an opportunity for learning and growth through our daily interactions with them. Providing those opportunities for learning, both in the classroom and through real-world events, is the foundation of the work we do in preparing students to meet the challenges that they may face in a complex world. We are certainly up to the task and are proud of the work that we are doing here at the Community Charter School of Cambridge.

While we continue to put our energy and our focus into providing a welcoming, safe, respectful, and high-quality educational experience for *every* one of our students, we also want to reach out to all of you as parents and guardians who also may be feeling considerable stress during this time of uncertainty. To that end, we are posting a resource compiled by the Massachusetts Charter Public School Association for use as a reference by anyone with questions or concerns about what to expect. We are also available to answer questions to the best of our ability.

As many of you know, our High School Principal, Ali Nomani, is a proud Muslim who immigrated to the United States at the age of 18. In the coming weeks and months, he, along with other staff members, will be holding formal and informal support group meetings with students and families who are impacted or concerned by the recent changes to immigration policy and practice. We hope these will be spaces where our community can come together to share, to listen, or to discuss these issues or other issues. If you are interested in attending, please reach out to one of us. As is always the case, we have counselors and other staff

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prepared to engage in conversations with students about issues that might be impacting them, to ensure that CCSC remains a place where every child feels supported and freely expresses her/his thoughts and opinions. Additionally, teachers and advisors will intentionally and constructively engage students in conversations about these issues as is appropriate and necessary.

Thank you for partnering with us and, with your support, we will continue to work to support our families every step of the way.

Caleb Hurst-Hiller, Head of School
Becki Norris, Middle School Principal
Ali Nomani, High School Principal
Katie Rieser, Dean of Curriculum and Program
Nathan Dineen, Dean of Students
Nicole Osei, Dean of Students
Devin Morris, Director of Student and Family Engagement