

For Immediate Release

September 5, 2017

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Community Response to Recent Announcement Regarding DACA

San Jose Community Stands with Dreamers

SAN JOSÉ — Local organizations and immigrant advocates will be hosting a press conference to respond to the Trump Administration's announcement this morning to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

DACA allows immigrant youth who meet certain requirements to live and work in the U.S. temporarily. Since the program started in 2012, it has had a transformative impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of immigrant youth and their communities, and tremendous benefits for our country as a whole.

Nearly 800,000 Dreamers, 24,000 eligible in Santa Clara County, received critical deportation protections and work authorization under the 2012 DACA program. DACA has allowed Dreamers to work in every industry and at nearly every single major company in the US.

These Dreamers came forward with the government's promise of protection. They passed a rigorous background check, paid a fee, and remain enrolled in school, active duty or the workforce. They are hardworking, young individuals sewn into the fabric of our nation. Eliminating these Dreamers' ability to work legally in the U.S., and subjecting them to immediate deportation represents a moral and political disaster.

WHAT: Press conference to express support for DREAMers and urge US Congress to support a legislative solution such as the Dream Act

WHEN: Tuesday, Sept 5th, 11:30am

WHO: Shaila Ramos, MC

Flor Martinez, DACA recipient

Dave Cortese, Board President

Mayor Sam Liccardo

Kathleen Wong (Lau), SJSU Chief Diversity Officer

Maria Lopez, DACA recipient

Maricela Gutiérrez, SIREN

Adriana, DACA recipient

Father Jon Pedigo – ring of protection for DACA recipients

WHERE: Martin Luther King Library located at 150 E. San Fernando St. San Jose, 95112

"The Attorney General's announcement of the Trump Administration's rescission of DACA abandons 800,000 of America's hardest-working, most patriotic residents. Punting the issue to Congress, without any affirmative leadership to enact a legislative solution, amounts to a cowardly cop-out, placing the futures of these young women and men in serious jeopardy" said Mayor Sam Liccardo. "To San Jose's tens of thousands of DREAMers, we reiterate: 'We've got your back.' I will seek to challenge the Administration's actions in court, after consulting with our Council and City Attorney regarding our options in the week ahead.

*“Trump’s plan to eliminate DACA is by far his most callous attempt as of yet,” said **Board President Dave Cortese**. “The lives, dreams, and futures of thousands of DACA recipients are not a bargaining chip for this Administration to play with. I remain committed to them and to their cause. I urge every DREAMer out there to remain resilient and hopeful. Because together, we will rise.”*

*“These are young people who were brought here as children, they are ready to work and continue their education. These Dreamers are part of our community and we want them to stay,” said **Supervisor Cindy Chavez** representing District 2 including downtown San Jose, East and South San Jose.*

*"Not only is the rollback of DACA immoral, but it is also terrible for America's competitive economic advantage," said **Derrick Seaver, Executive Vice President of The Silicon Valley Organization**, "Our economic strength is our diversity; it is our greatest asset and our key difference maker. To put 800,000 Americans, whose sole 'infraction' was arriving here as children, on a path to lose citizenship will upend a large portion of this key strength. Repealing DACA sends the message that America's door to opportunity is slammed tighter, and that is not the message that Silicon Valley business leaders want our government to send to the world at a time when expanding opportunity is the key to long-term innovative success".*

*“OneJustice, a statewide legal services organization mobilizing volunteer attorneys in immigrant communities, reports that lawyers throughout California are already coming forward, ready to volunteer their services to DACA participants” announced **Julia Wilson, Executive Director of OneJustice**. “Attorneys and law students interested in volunteering are encouraged to sign-up for the statewide Immigration Pro Bono Response network at <https://onejustice.org/ourprograms/immigration/>.”*

*“We are incredibly disappointed by President Trump's decision to end DACA. In six months, this will force 800,000 Dreamers out of their jobs and put them under threat of immediate deportation, unless Congress acts. What this decision makes abundantly clear is that Congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle must immediately come together - right now - and pass a bipartisan Dream Act: 800,000 lives are at stake.” **Todd Schulte, President. FWD.us***

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