



PRESS STATEMENT

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Trump's decision to eliminate DACA is taking America in the wrong direction.

Boston, MA. We are saddened and disappointed to report that the Trump Administration is eliminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program. A Department of Homeland Security memo confirmed that new DACA applications will no longer be accepted after September 5th. Anyone with deferred action that is scheduled to expire between now and March 5, 2018 can apply for a two-year renewal. These applications must be submitted by Oct. 5, 2017.

Agencia ALPHA, an organization that works on behalf of the immigrant community, expresses our utmost disappointment in president Trump's heartless decision. *"Such action is a direct attack on the immigrant community that lives in the United States. To take away the opportunity to succeed in life, without fear of being deported is an inhumane action. This action does not reflect the values that have made this country a great nation"* stated Damaris Velasquez, Director of Programs of Agencia ALPHA.

"As ALPHA we are committed to working and fighting on behalf of our immigrant community. For these reasons, our energy and work will target Congress, who has the capacity to provide the immediate protection immigrants need. Our Dreamers are not criminals, they are young productive people who have shown that with a work permit they have gone far, they have become professionals who invest in our economy and have made it stronger," Ms. Velasquez concluded.

"This is the moment that Congress needs to do their job. For many years they have been silent and haven't taken any immigration action. We need to push them to take the right decision and to grant DACA beneficiaries the opportunity to continue with a process that will provide them a path to legalization and naturalization" said Vilma Galvez, Director of the Legalization Program.

Agencia ALPHA



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"We take this opportunity to send a word of encouragement and solidarity to our young people - those with DACA and to those without any legal status. We know that you are gifted, resilient and will overcome this dark moment in history. We also encourage our spiritual leaders to stand with us in this moment of turmoil and support our young people by joining our efforts in asking Congress to pass a just and human immigration reform," added Patricia Sobalvarro, Executive Director.

"As part of our next steps, we encourage all impacted - friends and family members of those impacted by DACA, TPS or anyone without any status to join us this Sunday, September 10, 2018 at 2:00pm for a Community Forum at Congregation Lion of Judah (20 Reed Street, 4th Floor, Boston, MA 02118).

We will discuss the impact this announcement has on our community, what to expect from Congress in the near future, and what we as a community can do to prepare and protect our loved ones. We will also have legal representatives ready to briefly discuss other immigration benefits that may be available in some cases," concluded Ms. Sobalvarro.