

July 11, 2016

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations committed to creating a more fair and just immigration system, we are disheartened by the failure of the U.S. Supreme Court to arrive at a decision in the *United States v. Texas* case. Had the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) and the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA+) programs been allowed to move forward, they would have brought a measure of common sense to our dysfunctional immigration system and would have provided desperately needed relief to millions of American families who remain at risk of being torn apart by deportation.

We commend you for creating these programs and for defending them when challenged in the courts. We firmly believe that prosecutorial discretion provides you with the legal authority to grant deferred action to certain individuals through the DAPA and DACA programs. The nation's leading immigration law scholars agree with this assessment.<sup>1</sup> We stand by you, undeterred, in support of these programs and hope that you will continue to fight for them and for American families.

Despite this temporary setback to the DAPA program, there are actions that your administration can immediately take to protect and strengthen the 2012 DACA program that would make a meaningful difference in the lives of DACA-mented youth and their families. We ask that you use your powers to provide all individuals granted relief through the DACA program with access to affordable health care to the same extent as other lawfully present people. It required both dedication and political courage to create the DACA program, as it did to pursue health reform when it had eluded so many of your predecessors. In order for each of these programs to succeed, they must be brought into alignment.

**Health care restrictions against DACA-mented youth are unnecessary and unfair. We urge you to restore access to DACA-mented youth to programs under the ACA, as well as in Medicaid, and CHIP**

Since 2012, when access to the ACA, Medicaid, and CHIP to DACA-mented youth was affirmatively denied, we have continued to ask your administration and HHS to undo the regulatory restrictions that prevent these individuals from accessing these programs. The restrictions against DACA-mented individuals are a radical and unnecessary departure from established federal rules and practices. Indeed, DACA is the exception: all other forms of deferred action are still considered to be lawfully present for purposes of the ACA, Medicaid, and CHIP. DACA-mented youth, though

---

<sup>1</sup> [https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/\\_file/LAWPROFLTRHANENFINAL.pdf](https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/_file/LAWPROFLTRHANENFINAL.pdf)

they have been granted relief from deportation and are authorized to live and work in the U.S., remain essentially undocumented for purposes of health care access. The restriction against DACA grantees is unnecessary and unjust, and only undermines the spirit of both the DACA program and the ACA. You as President have the power to undo this restriction at any moment.

We urge you to extend the promise of meaningful and affordable health care to all deferred action recipients, without distinction. Doing so would provide DACA-mented youth with a real opportunity to stay healthy and to succeed in our communities.

### **The DACA program presents an opportunity to strengthen the Affordable Care Act**

In your recent statement commemorating the sixth anniversary of the ACA<sup>2</sup>, you stated:

“We’ve made good progress in the last six years. But we still have more work to do...After nearly a century of effort, and thanks to the thousands of people who fought so hard to pass and implement this law, we have at last succeeded in leaving our kids and grandkids a country where pre-existing conditions exclusions are a thing of the past, affordable options are within our reach, and health care is no longer a privilege, but a right.”

Thanks to your leadership, our health care system is better than when you entered office. Millions of previously uninsured Americans and their families now have the security that comes with access to affordable health insurance. However, we agree with you that the ACA, as incredible an achievement as it was, still leaves much more work to be done. We further agree that health care is not a privilege but a right, and that access to health care is fundamental to the wellbeing of all American communities. If your administration continues to deny DACA grantees access to the ACA it would, in essence, be denying access to these individuals due to their pre-existing condition, their immigration status. This is in direct conflict with the purpose and spirit of the ACA—to achieve a fully insured population to the greatest extent possible for the benefit of individual and public health.

No one in our country, no matter where they come from, should live in fear for their health. We urge the administration to act and rescind barriers to affordable health coverage and care for those granted DACA. With such policy changes, we would not only be improving the health and economic opportunities for immigrant families – but we would be taking critical steps towards investing in healthier and more prosperous communities for our society as a whole.

Sincerely,

#### **National Groups (135)**

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
Advocates for Youth  
African American Health Alliance  
African American Ministers In Action

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/03/22/statement-president-sixth-anniversary-affordable-care-act>

AIDS United  
Alliance for Citizenship  
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
America's Voice Education Fund  
Andrew Goodman Foundation  
Arab American Institute  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Forum (APIAF)  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters  
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)  
Caring Across Generations  
CASA  
Center for Community Change (CCC)  
Center for Employment Training  
Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College  
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.  
Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board, Workers United  
Children's Defense Fund (CDF)  
Church World Service (CWS)  
Coalition for Disability Health Equity  
Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)  
Community Catalyst  
DACCA  
Daughter of Charity/ Ladies of Charity  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
DURRANI Foundation  
Educators for Fair Consideration  
Enlace  
Families USA  
Farmworker Justice  
First Focus  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Futures Without Violence  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches  
Guttmacher Institute

Hispanic Federation, Inc.  
Hispanic Health Network  
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters USA-JPIC  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC)  
International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE)  
Jobs With Justice  
JPIC Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Lambda Legal  
Lambda Sigma Upsilon Latino Fraternity Incorporated  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Latinos in the Deep South  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
Mission Asset Fund (MAF)  
Main Street Alliance  
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)  
Nation Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC)  
National Association of Human Rights Workers  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Center for Law and Economic Justice  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network (NDLON)  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Education Association  
National Employment Law Project (NELP)  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA)  
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center (NILC)  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)  
National Latina/o Psychological Association  
National LGBTQ Task Force  
National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA)  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Law Center  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians (NCAPIP)  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice

Our Developing World  
Pax Christi USA  
People Demanding Action  
People's Action  
Physicians For A National Health Program  
PICO National Network  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)  
Pre-Health Dreamers  
Project Inform  
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)  
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition  
Religious of the Sacred Heart  
RESULTS  
School Sisters of St. Francis  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters  
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership  
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word  
Sisters of Mercy  
Sisters of Providence  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
TechWomen  
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law  
The UndocuBlack Network  
U. S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)  
UNITE HERE  
United Farm Workers (UFW)  
United We Dream (UWD)  
Voto Latino  
We Belong Together  
Western States Center  
Women's Refugee Commission  
Young Invincibles

**State and Local Groups (224)**

9to5 California  
9to5 Colorado  
9to5 Georgia  
9to5 Wisconsin  
Ability Chicago Info  
Access California Services  
Access Living  
African Community Center  
African Family Holistic Health Organization

African Services Committee  
AIDS Alabama  
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice  
All Peoples Community Center  
Alta Mira Specialized Family Services  
American Academy of Pediatrics, California  
Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta  
Asian Americans United  
Asian Law Alliance  
Asociacion de Servicios para el Inmigrante  
ASPIRE  
Association for Chinese Families of the Disabled  
Berkshire Immigrant Center  
Boston College Center for Human Rights & International Justice  
Brake the Cycle of Poverty  
Brazilian Women's Group  
Bread for the World, Maine  
California Health Professional Student Alliance  
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)  
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice  
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)  
California Partnership  
California Primary Care Association  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Casa de Maryland  
Casa de Virginia  
Catholic Charities of Pueblo  
Causa Oregon  
Ceiba  
Central American Resource Center-DC (CARECEN)  
Centro Comunitario CEUS  
Centro de Progreso, INC  
Centura Health Links  
Chapel of His Glory  
Child Advocate  
Children Now  
Children's Defense Fund - New York  
Children's Defense Fund - Texas  
Children's Defense Fund - California  
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota  
Church Women United in New York State  
Citizen Action of New York  
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc  
Clergy and Laity United For Economic Justice (Clue)  
Cleveland Jobs with Justice

Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero  
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)  
Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM)  
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)  
Community Action Association of Pennsylvania  
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands  
Community for the Advancement of Family Education  
Community Service Society of New York  
Consumer Health First  
Domestic Violence Council  
Dominican Sister ~ Grand Rapids  
Dream Team LA  
East Texas Human Needs Network  
Education Equals Making Community Connections  
El Quinto Sol de America  
Emily Griffith Technical College  
Empire Justice Center  
Equality California  
EverThrive Illinois  
Families United  
Family Forward Oregon  
First Church Shelter  
Franciscan Friars  
Freedom at Emory  
FWAF Fellsmere  
Granite Falls School District  
Hastings Students for Immigrant Rights  
Having Our Say Coalition  
Health Access California  
Health Care for All New York  
Health Care for All Oregon  
Her Justice  
Hilton Head for Peace  
Hope For Carolina  
Houston Community Services  
Human Agenda  
Hunger Action Los Angeles  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)  
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota  
Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Colorado  
Immigrant Support And Assistance Center (ISAAC)  
Impact NW  
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition (IEIYC)  
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California  
Iowa Immigrants Voice Program  
Irving park United Methodist Church

ISALAH

Jewish Family Service

JPIC Network, Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH

Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center

Korean Community Center of the East Bay

Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York

La Hermandad Hank Lacayo Youth & Family Center

La Maestra Community Health Centers

Latino Coalition for a Healthy California

Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)

Legal Services of Southern Piedmont

Leticia A. Network for Immigrant Access to California Higher Education

Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice

Lowcountry Immigration Coalition

Maine Equal Justice Partners

Make the Road New Jersey

Make the Road New York

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition

Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

MCH Access

Medicaid Matters New York

Michigan United

Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid

Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance

mommieactivist and sons

Mountain View Dreamers

NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon

National Latino Progressive Voter Party

Neighborhood Ministries

New Dimensions in Wellness

New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice

New Jersey Center for Empowerment and Community Development

New Jersey Policy Perspective

New Labor

New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage

North Carolina Community Health Center Association

Northwest Family Services

Northwest Health Law Advocates

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project

Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)

One in Four Chronic Health

OneAmerica

Oregon Center for Public Policy

Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)

Oregon Health Equity Alliance

Oregon Latino Health Coalition

Oxford Family Group Day Care



Peace Over Violence  
PeterCares House  
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon  
Polonians Organized to Minister to Our Community, Inc. (POMOC)  
Poor Peoples Alliance  
Powell Law PLLC  
Preble Street  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition  
Public Justice Center  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
RefugeeOne  
RESULTS-Santa Fe  
Rural Movement Initiative  
Sacred Heart Community Service  
Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church Hispanic Outreach Committee  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Sharon Social Services  
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Inc.  
Sisters of Mercy - South Central (NC)  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia  
Sisters of St Joseph-Baden.org  
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, SD  
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary  
Somos Mayfair  
South Asian Network  
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network  
Southwest Women's Law Center  
Spect-Actors Collective  
SSJ Welcome Center  
Strive 4 Success  
TakeAction Minnesota  
Templo Calvario Community Development Corporation  
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIIRC)  
Tennessee Justice Center  
The Center for Undocumented Students at Saint Peter's University  
The Children's Partnership  
The Evangelical Pastors Association of Hudson County  
The Foundation for Economic and Social Justice  
The Greenlining Institute  
The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)  
TODEC Legal Center  
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey  
United African Organization

Upstream Public Health  
Utahns Against Hunger  
VA Coalition for Immigrant Rights  
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence  
Violence Intervention Program  
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)  
Volunteers of Legal Service  
WA Dream Coalition  
Washington Community Action Network  
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians  
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition  
Western Center on Law & Poverty  
Western States Center  
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center  
Women Who Never Give Up  
Women Working Together USA  
Workers Defense Project  
Xaverian Brothers  
Young Immigrants in Action, YIA  
Young Women United  
Youth Health Service Corps  
YWCA of Greater Portland  
YWCA Tulsa

Cc:

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services  
Andy Slavitt, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)  
Denis McDonough, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States  
Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States  
Cecilia Munoz, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council  
Felicia Escobar, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy, White House DPC  
Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Engagement, White House  
Manar Waheed, White House Domestic Policy Council  
Jocelyn Samuels, Director, Office for Civil Rights, HHS  
Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, Director, Office of Minority Health, HHS  
Liliana Rañon, Office of Minority Health, HHS