

Renewing Our Commitment to DREAMers

Since its creation in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has protected more than 800,000 individuals, including tens of thousands of immigrants in Los Angeles County, from deportation. On September 5, 2017, in a divisive, ill-advised and inhumane move, then-President Trump ended the DACA program, albeit with a six-month delay. Recognizing the countless contributions that DACA program recipients have made to their communities, on September 12, 2017, this Board of Supervisors (Board) directed County Counsel to file or join amicus briefs in any litigation aimed at protecting DACA program recipients. Ending DACA and preventing recipients from participating in the labor force could cost the United States \$460.3 billion in GDP and decrease Social Security and Medicare contributions by \$24.6 billion over the next decade. Every state in the U.S. will feel the economic harms from ending DACA. Los Angeles County, a virtual state in its own right, is especially susceptible to these economic harms and the human costs associated with them.

In June 2020, the United States Supreme Court concluded that the Trump administration’s attempt to rescind DACA was unlawful. Subsequently, the Trump administration issued a memorandum stating that the Department of Homeland Security would

MOTION

MITCHELL _____

KUEHL _____

HAHN _____

BARGER _____

SOLIS _____

engage in a “full consideration of the DACA policy.” The memorandum purported to reject all initial requests for DACA recipients and all pending and future applications for advance parole absent exceptional circumstances, and to shorten DACA program renewals to one-year periods.

Since the beginning of the Biden administration, President Joseph R. Biden has signed executive orders to protect immigrants from the previous administration’s inhumane federal immigration policies, and the administration issued a memorandum aimed at preserving and strengthening DACA. However, Republican state attorneys general subsequently filed a lawsuit to ask a federal district court in Texas to declare DACA unlawful. Unfortunately, on July 16, 2021, the federal judge in Texas halted the DACA program’s ability to accept new applicants, once again disrupting the lives of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers, and placed the status of existing DACA recipients in limbo. In light of this new development, Los Angeles County must renew its commitment to our Dreamers, who have contributed tremendously to our County, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct County Counsel to file and/or join in, as a party or *amicus curiae*, litigation aimed at protecting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, including the case captioned *State of Texas, et al. v. United States of America, et al.* Case No. 1:18-CV-00068, and any subsequent appeals or litigation deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

#

HLS:hn