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Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Content

- Supreme Court & DACA+/ DAPA 1
- Lawsuit against Garcia’s Kitchen 2
- Coalition turns in over 10,000 signatures 2



U.S. SUPREME COURT RULES ON DACA+, DAPA

ALBUQUERQUE – At a press conference organized by El CENTRO on June 23, organizations representing ListoNM, families, elected officials, legal experts, and community allies denounced the outrageous decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the injunction on President Obama’s administrative relief programs—known as DACA+ and DAPA—which had been put on hold due to an anti-immigrant lawsuit spearheaded by the state of Texas. Upon implementation the programs could have benefitted more than 36,000 hard working families in New Mexico and 5 million immigrant families nationwide in addition to growing the economy.

New Mexico Dream Team.

It is estimated that over 36 thousand people would have benefited from the immigration initiative and could have created an economic stimulus of up to \$1 billion during the following decade after implementation in NM alone. “Not only is the injunction putting our families at risk for deportation, but this is a sad day for New Mexico’s economy,” stated Andrea Plaza Executive Director of Encuentro.

“The battle is not over. We are urging the Obama administration to seek rehearing in this case so that a fully constituted Supreme Court can issue a binding decision in this case,” said Campos.

El CENTRO’s thanks those elected officials who supported DACA+ and DAPA such as Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, Congressman Lujan, Senator Heinrich, and Attorney General Balderas who signed on to amicus briefs. We continue to voice our disappointment in Gov. Susana Martinez who continues to target the immigrant community and who opposed these programs which would have greatly benefited New Mexico families, workers, and the economy.

If you wish to obtain information about the Supreme Court decision, about DACA 2012 (which was not impacted by the Supreme Court decision), and about upcoming informational forums visit www.listonm.org or text “LISTO” to (505) 465-4994. Information forums will include a screening session to find out if you qualify for a form of immigration relief like DACA 2012 or others, information on citizenship, how to register or help register people to vote, and a community dialog on what are the next steps in our fight for our families. To get involved in the on-going fight for immigration reform, to stop deportations locally, and for workers’ rights, contact El CENTRO at (505) 246-1627 or www.elcentronm.org

“Today the Supreme Court issued a split decision that will leave in place the preliminary injunction blocking DAPA and the expansion of DACA. While today’s deadlock sets no Supreme Court precedent, these important, commonsense policies will remain blocked nationwide for the time being,” said Eva Eitzen, Legal Director of New Mexico Immigrant Law Center.

Bertha Campos, an Albuquerque small business owner, and mother of five has lived in the U.S. for the past 28 years. She, like most immigrants, lives in a mixed status family and she would have qualified for DAPA, “Today the Court decided to maintain the status quo for millions of families across the country,” she said. “But, we will not be silent. We will continue organizing locally against deportations and to protect workers’ rights. In addition, the Latino community will remember which politicians are responsible for this come November.”

Members of ListoNM vowed to continue to fight for the dignity of their families, “Today’s decision is only a small setback in our fight for families. Our community will not stop fighting until we win the comprehensive immigration reform that our families deserve and that reflects the shared values to which we aspire as a nation”, stated Karla Molinar Arvizo, a member of the

THE INJUNCTION CONTINUES!

The U.S. Supreme Court, in an outrageous split decision (4:4), ruled to leave in place the injunction blocking the implementation of President Obama’s executive actions. Here’s what you need to know:



1. THE FIGHT CONTINUES!
KEEP ORGANIZING FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM, TO STOP ALL DEPORTATIONS, AND FOR WORKERS’ JUSTICE.



2. GET READY!
DACA 2012 IS STILL IN PLACE. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: LISTONM.ORG/TIPS



3. GET INFORMED!
TEXT “READY” TO (505) 465-4945 TO STAY UP TO DATE ON DACA 2012 AND FUTURE COURT DECISIONS.



4. GET INVOLVED!
JOIN VOTER REGISTRATION AND CITIZENSHIP EFFORTS: www.elcentronm.org



YOU SHOULD NOT ACCEPT ANY SERVICES FROM “NOTARIOS” OR PUBLIC NOTARIES, ATTORNEYS, OR OTHERS FOR DACA+/DAPA, THESE PROGRAMS ARE NOT IN PLACE.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WAGETHEFT WORKSHOPS

WHEN: July 6, 13, 20 & 27

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102

DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call us at (505) 246-1627 to reserve a place.

IMMIGRATION FORUM 1

WHEN: July 9 from 1 p.m - 3 p.m.

WHERE: Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
- 1860 Griegos Rd NW, 87107

DESCRIPTION: Come and learn more about the recent decision by the Supreme Court about DACA+/DAPA. Find out if maybe you qualify, can apply or can renew for DACA 2012. Join the next steps in the fight for our families.

LAST DAY TO TURN IN SIGNATURES - HEALTHY WORKFORCE ABQ

WHEN: July 8 from 9 am- 5 pm

DESCRIPTION: If you have helped gather signatures for Healthy Workforce ABQ with El CENTRO, this is the last day to turn in signatures at our offices. We appreciate all your hard work and time to help thousands of workers in our city be one step closer to having Paid Sick Days.

FREE CLINICS - DACA2012

WHEN: Julio 6, 13, 20 y 27
1 pm - 5 pm

WHERE: (El CENTRO) 714 4th St. SW
87102

DESCRIPTION: The New Mexico Immigrant Law Center invites you to their Free Workshops to learn more about DACA 2012, to find out if you are eligible, where you will receive help filling out your application and you'll have a chance to speak with a lawyer about your DACA case. (Appointment is not necessary).



GARCIA'S KITCHEN HETS SUED FOR DISCRIMINATION

ALBUQUERQUE, NM— At a press conference on June 3, former Garcia's Kitchen employee, Pedro Maldonado, with the support of El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos (El CENTRO), a local immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization, publicly denounced the discrimination he suffered at the restaurant. Maldonado, 34, is suing Garcia's Kitchen under the New Mexico Human Rights Act for discriminating against him on account of his HIV status.

Maldonado worked at Garcia's Kitchen for approximately 3 months during 2014. "The day I was fired I felt dehumanized, and stripped of my dignity because I was treated like a second class citizen", Maldonado said. "It had a major impact on me emotionally and economically, but I am using this experience to send the message to workers to learn about their rights and to educate the public and debunk many of the myths that still exist about HIV/AIDS."

Jessica Molzen, the CEO at New Mexico AIDS Services stated "The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirms that there is no known risk of HIV transmission to co-

workers, clients, or consumers from contact in industries such as food-service establishments," she said.

El CENTRO's workers' committee was also present during the action in support of Pedro. "Thanks to Pedro's courage by telling his story, we are sending a very clear message, We won't stay quiet!" said Sabina Flores, member of El CENTRO's workers' committee. "All workers have rights no matter our sexual orientation, gender, age, immigration status or medical condition."

"Today I felt liberated; [After turning in the ribbons] Walking out of the restaurant, I feel like I've regained my dignity, my rights, and my spirit reenergized!" Maldonado said. "I've learned that I have gained a family with everyone in the community who has supported me and that I will continue lifting the voices of those who feel like they can't speak up."

For more information or if you are a worker who feels is facing discrimination in the workplace call El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos at (505)246-1627 or go to the website www.elcentronm.org

A STEP CLOSER TO PUTTING INITIATIVE ON THE BALLOT

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Healthy Workforce ABQ –a coalition comprised of allies such as OLÉ, El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, Strong Families, and SWOP– delivered over 10,000 signatures to the city clerk's office on Monday, June 20. The Healthy Workforce ABQ coalition also held a press conference to talk about their next steps in the fight for paid sick days for all workers in the city of Albuquerque.

Member of El CENTRO and long time workers' justice fighter, Plácida Cortes, was one of the speakers for the press conference. She stated that, "Engagement in this campaign from Latino and immigrant communities has been amazing." This is because El CENTRO has a "Friends and Family" program which involves our members in the gathering of petition signatures from friends or family who are already registered to vote in the City of Albuquerque in addition to gathering signatures at events.

The ballot initiative, which would place an ordinance to allow workers the opportunity to earn paid sick leave on the ballot in November, has been extremely popular among

voters and the coalition is expected to exceed the required 14,218 signatures by their July 11 deadline. Each signature has to be verified by the City Clerk's office.

The ordinance, which would give workers in Albuquerque the opportunity to earn one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked, has support both from workers and various small businesses, including Nexus Brewery, Donut Mart, Fano Bakery, Sole Comfort and Free Radicals, to name a few. If passed, the ordinance would impact over 100,000 workers.

"All workers deserve to live without the security of knowing that they can care for their own health or a loved one, without losing critical wages for their daily living expenses," Plácida said.

To find out more about how you can support the Healthy Workforce ABQ campaign, call us at (505) 246-1627, visit the coalition website www.healthworkforceabq.org, our website www.elcentronm.org, or follow us on Facebook (El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos).