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*Texas Circuit Court Judge Rules Against Immigrant Families*

**Immigrants’ Rights Groups Across the Nation Confident US Fifth Court of Appeals Will Reject Politically-Motivated Lawsuit by Anti-Immigrant Politicians**

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Albuquerque- late last night, U.S. District Court Judge Hanen of Brownsville, Texas, issued a preliminary injunction that temporarily blocks the implementation process of the new immigrant deferred action programs, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and the new Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) programs. The ruling most likely pushes back the start date for millions of immigrants workers to come forward, register, and apply for work permits, which was planned to begin as soon as February 18, 2015 for Dreamers.

“Immigrant families and workers in Albuquerque will move forward regardless of today’s ruling, and will continue getting ready for the deferred action programs that will give thousands of Albuquerqueans the chance to live, work, and stay with their families,” stated Fabiola Bawden, a community organizer with El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos. “We’ve always said that this lawsuit is just a *political stunt*by anti-immigrant Attorneys General and governors and is meant to scare away eligible immigrants from applying for DACA/DAPA.”

Rachel LaZar, El CENTRO’s executive director continued, “We have faith that the court system will eventually reject this meritless lawsuit that only wastes taxpayer dollars, disenfranchises immigrant workers and families, and robs much needed revenue from state economies. This is why we laud New Mexico’s Attorney General Hector Balderas for signing on to the amicus brief in support of the deferred action programs.”

In the Amicus Brief, Attorney General Balderas and the 11 other signatories recognize that, “If a preliminary injunction is granted, the States will be deprived of the demonstrated economic and social benefits of allowing established immigrants to remain with their families, seek legal work, and contribute to their communities.”

Gabriel Hernández, a construction worker and community organizer responded to the injunction, “We are New Mexico workers. Every day that administrative relief is delayed is a missed opportunity for all workers to improve their average wages and working conditions and to generate millions in tax revenue.

There are an estimated 34,000 immigrant workers and families in New Mexico who would be eligible for one of the deferred action programs. Enabling these immigrants to register with the government, request a reprieve from removal, and apply for a temporary work permit would grow New Mexico’s GDP by $490 million to $1.2 billion over the next ten years.

Ingrid Ordoñez, a 19 year old UNM student who dreams of being a social worker and serving the South Valley community will continue to get ready to apply for, and receive protection under the expanded DACA, “We are talking about our New Mexico families. This is personal to us. Far-right extremists are playing politics with our families and this might be a delay, but it will not deter us.”

Bertha Campos, a small business owner, and mother of five, responded to the decision, “I have been fighting for immigration reform for over fifteen years because I dream of a day when my family doesn’t live with the constant fear of being separated. I am also proud of my contributions to this state as a business owner and am looking forward to being able to fully contribute. I am going to continue to prepare, along with my community, to apply for DAPA.”

El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos urges the 5th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals to take up this case immediately because millions of real people like Gabriel, Ingrid, and Bertha want to come forward to live and work in the only country they call home.

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