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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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ABQ Leaders and Supporters Echo the Call of Thousands at Supreme Court and Across Nation to Unblock DAPA and Expanded DACA

Denounce Governor Martinez' Anti-Immigrant Positions in NM

ALBUQUERQUE – Today, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Texas v. United States, President Obama's deferred action initiatives, DAPA and expanded DACA. These programs have been held up in the courts since Texas and 25 other states –in their majority Republican governors and attorneys general, sued the administration in December, 2014.

At a press conference organized by El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, an immigrants' rights organization, Albuquerque families, elected officials, and legal experts showed their support for the president's immigration executive actions which would provide relief from deportation for approximately 5 million immigrants. The press conference was an echo event in support of the executive actions on immigration that are being held in over 20 cities across the nation.

Bertha Campos, an Albuquerque small business owner and mother of five has lived in the U.S. for the past 28 years, and like most immigrants lives in a mixed status family "I dream of a day when my family doesn't live with the constant fear of being separated," she said. "Expanded DACA and DAPA would benefit all of us because we would have the chance to live up to our full potential."

Many New Mexico-based organizations and elected officials, including Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, Congressman Lujan, and Attorney General Balderas, signed onto amicus briefs (friend of the court briefs) in support of the executive actions. "Millions of parents and workers deserve the security and dignity of a work authorization and a reprieve from the constant threat of deportation," said Representative Javier Martínez (D - District 11). He, and other speakers, expressed disappointed that Governor Martinez signed onto an amicus brief against the programs, pointing out that this is one action among her anti-immigrant agenda, "As elected officials and as state, we should see the executive actions on immigration as an opportunity. The Governor, yet again, is on the wrong side of history when it comes to her position on immigration issues," Rep. Martínez said.

Albuquerque City Councilor Klarissa Peña, a co-sponsor of a memorial passed last year by the Albuquerque City Council, explained why state and local governments should be embracing the programs, "DACA+ and DAPA would allow tens of thousands of immigrants with deep roots in

New Mexico to keep their families together, more fully integrate into our communities, and increase the tax-base and economic activities. That is why I am ready to roll up my sleeves, meet with leaders and community , and see how we can work together on implementation. I urge other elected officials to do the same”

The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision on the future of the immigration initiatives by June 30. “We are gratified that the Supreme Court heard the case today, and we are confident that this summer the Supreme Court will find that the actions of the Administration were permissible,” said Lauren Garrity, attorney at New Mexico Immigrant Law Center.

According to the latest survey by the Center for American Progress, in the state of New Mexico, it is estimated that over 36 thousand people could benefit from the immigration initiatives, creating an economic stimulus of up to \$1 billion during the following decade after implementation.

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