DACA AND DAPA, WHAT’S HAPPENING?

This election year, immigration has become one of the central debates for candidates from both parties, including the injunction on the executive actions issued by President Obama known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA expanded) and Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) in November 2014. These executive actions have been faced with both support and opposition as the U.S. Supreme Court prepares to begin oral arguments for the case on April 18.

In addition to organizing vigils, fasts, rallies, and events with elected officials around the country, 326 organizations, including El CENTRO, filed an amicus brief urging the Court to favor keeping families united and to provide deportation relief for over 5 million immigrants in the country. Dozens of other briefs in favor of DACA+ and DAPA were filed and included Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, Congressman Lujan, Senator Heinrich, and Attorney General Balderes to show New Mexico’s support.

It is important to mention that the anti-immigrant opposition has also filed amicus briefs and taken positive action in favor of keeping families together and to provide deportation relief for over 5 million immigrants in the country. Dozens of other briefs in favor of DAPA and expanded DACA initiatives were filed and included Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, Congressman Lujan, Senator Heinrich, and Attorney General Balderes to show New Mexico’s support.

As we approach the hearing date, here are the main points to keep in mind for the case:
- Oral arguments for the case begin on April 18. There will be no ruling on that date.
- The court will be analyzing whether DAPA and expanded DACA initiatives are in accordance with federal immigration law.
- Experts are confident the court will consider legal precedent which favors the Obama Administration.
- The Supreme Court finishes its work period in June which is when a ruling is expected for the case.
- DACA 2012 is still being implemented and those who qualify can continue to apply for this relief program.

Now more than ever it is crucial for each of us to do our part. If you qualify for naturalization, do not hesitate and become a U.S. citizen and get registered to vote! The ruling from the Supreme Court is only half the battle. This election year could create a more hostile environment for the immigrant community if the wrong people are elected into power. For those of us who cannot vote, inform your community about candidate’s positions, register others, and ensure that the community turns out en masse. It’s not just your duty but your responsibility to become part of the democratic process!

If you’d like more information on DACA 2012, DACA+ (expanded) and DAPA and how you and your family can be preparing for implementation, visit www.listonm.org where you’ll find all the necessary information on these programs. Listo NM is a statewide campaign focused on preparing the community for the implementation of DACA+ and DAPA; there is also guidancance about how to apply for, or renew, DACA 2012 for those who qualify.
WAGE THEFT WORKSHOPS

WHEN: March 6, 13, 21 and 27
TIME: 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm
ADDRESS: 714 4th St. SW 87102
DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops to learn about your rights with law enforcement and in the workplace. Call us at (505) 246-1627 to reserve a place.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: April 13th @ 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.
ADDRESS: 3426 Barelas Rd. SW
DESCRIPTION: Join us for these free workshops to learn about your rights to inform other workers that wage theft is against the law and to encourage them to report it. To find out more information, call us at (505) 246-1627 for more information.

DIAS DE ALCANCE

WHERE: Isleta Blvd. & Blake Rd. @ 10 a.m.
WHEN: April 21
WHERE: El CENTRO (714 4th St. SW)
WHAT: Come join us at our membership meeting where we will discuss different issues affecting our community currently. Also take the time to meet other members and to engage in collective actions.

PREPARATION FOR MAY 1ST

WHEN: April 15th, 27th, 29th @ 6 p.m. and 30th @ TBA
WHERE: El CENTRO (714 4th St. SW)
WHAT: Come join us for a day full of creative activities where we will develop and manufacture all decorations for the May 1st Parada/Celebration. Come and share your creative abilities with us.

MAY 1st CELEBRATION

WHEN: May 1st
WHERE: Isleta Blvd. & Blake Rd. @ 10 a.m.
WHAT: Come and join El CENTRO in celebrating May 1st during the South Valley Celebration 2016. El CENTRO will be taking part in a parade where we will celebrate all of the immigrant community’s contributions to NM’s economy and we'll highlight the need for immigration relief through DACA and DAPA.

REMEMBERING CÉSAR CHÁVEZ’ LEGACY

The Albuquerque community along with members and the staff from El CENTRO came together to celebrate César Chávez’ legacy on Sunday, March 27.

César Chávez was a Mexican-American farm worker, labor leader and civil rights activist, who, with Dolores Huerta, co-founded the National Farm Workers Association (later the United Farm Workers union, UFW). His legacy continues to thrive, as he was a catalyst for the fight for farmworker’s rights.

With hundreds of participants, the celebration organized by the Recuerda César Chávez Committee, consisted of a march that began and culminated at the National Hispanic Cultural Center where, after the march, there was free entertainment, ranging from performances to concerts.

APRIL, WORKERS’ RIGHTS MONTH

El CENTRO continues to designate the month of April as ‘Workers’ Rights Month’ culminating on May 1st which is celebrated worldwide as International Workers’ Day. Wage Theft is rampant in New Mexico. The immigrant community is particularly affected by this type of labor abuse. As a way to combat Wage Theft in Albuquerque, we are launching a new section on our website dedicated to empowering workers to share their stories and to denounce this shameful practice of stealing workers’ wages.

El CENTRO will also be having ‘outreach days’ in different locations around the city. The main purpose of the outreach is for workers to inform other workers that wage theft is against the law and spread the word that regardless of immigration status, all workers have rights. We believe that by working together, we can put an end to Wage Theft. This practice does not only affect the workers but it also robs the local and state economy of millions of dollars. The outreach dates are on April 10th and the 24th.

Make sure to stay connected with us through our Facebook page. We will be announcing our different outreach dates as well as when and where you can come in to hear more about the work we’re doing in our Workers’ Justice Project. Don’t forget to visit our website www.elcentronm.org where you will find the personal stories of our members who have been victims of wage theft and have become Wage Theft Warriors by doing their part to educate and organize other workers.