



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Trump Announces the [Termination] of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program

Immigrants' Rights Organizations in Albuquerque Denounce Trump's Decision to Put 800,000 People at Immediate Risk of Deportation, Vow to Continue Fight for Immigrant Families

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. - Today, Trump announced the [termination] of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) putting over 800 thousand immigrant youth in immediate risk of deportation. In NM alone, [close to 7 thousand people find themselves without the temporary protection from deportation.](#)

Trump's announcement comes after his administration covered by a possible lawsuit lead by [Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, along with 9 other Republican attorneys general and the governor of Idaho.](#) unless the DACA program was phased-out by Sept. 5th, 2017.

Once again, Republicans have failed to build upon the proven success of the administrative relief program –first implemented in 2012– which [vastly improved the lives of more than 800 thousand immigrants nationwide.](#)

With the ending of DACA, [New Mexico now stands to lose \\$384.6 million in annual GDP, according to the latest study by the Center for American Progress.](#) At the national level, today's decision will result in a loss of \$460.3 billion from the national GDP over the next decade.

Gabriela Hernandez, DACA beneficiary, Southwest Organizer with United We Dream & Executive Director for the NM Dream Team said,

“Trump lied to the face of over 800 thousand young immigrants who believe he would not terminate the program. He covered amidst threats by a small group of republican extremists being lead by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

“Today, Trump has decided to continue his white supremacy and terror agenda by rescinding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), a temporary protection for

800,000 undocumented youth like me. Yet, I do not live in fear anymore, and for that reason I'm here to remind my community that in the same way we won DACA 5 years ago, we will continue to organize and we won't stop until all our families can live without fear of deportation.

"The New Mexico Dream Team (NMDT), the largest youth-led immigrant organization in the state of New Mexico, is calling on all allies and people of conscience to fight alongside us during this urgent time. Our youth and their families will now face personal, economic, and educational uncertainty with the rescinding of DACA. Regardless, we will continue to educate, mobilize and organize to channel our outrage into action and empowerment.

"We've said it before and we will say it again: Immigrants, refugees, brown and black people, the differently abled and LGBTQ folks are #HereToStay!"

Marian Mendez, DACA beneficiary, and community organizer at EL CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos said,

"This attack is yet one more example of Trump promoting a white supremacist agenda that aims to target and persecute immigrant families, communities of color, and low-wage workers at the expense of the moral and economic interests of our country. DACA has allowed over 800,000 young people like me to more fully contribute to our communities, to work, go to school and alleviate our parents' constant fear that we could be ripped away from our families.

"I am proud to come from a community of immigrant workers, such as my parents, who comprise New Mexico's workers that take care of our elderly and children, build and roof our homes, pick the chile that we are so proud of, work in the dairies and oil fields, and work in the service industry. During this new Trump era, we will push our Congressional delegation to stand with our communities to pass comprehensive immigration reform, protect DACA, and to fight back against attacks on sanctuary cities and increased border and interior enforcement. Locally, we will build upon New Mexico's proud legacy of resistance and of passing local policies which are conducive to keeping our families together, that uphold the civil rights of all New Mexicans, and that improve conditions for low-wage workers. We are ONE New Mexico and we are here to stay!"

Adriel D. Orozco, Attorney, New Mexico Immigrant Law Center, said,

"The DACA program has allowed thousands of New Mexico's youth to be able to pursue careers, buy homes, contribute to our economy, and support their families. The Trump Administration's decision to end DACA is a shameful one. The Texas Attorney General and

the nine other states that threatened Trump with a lawsuit provided Trump with a false choice—defend DACA or end the program. It's a false choice because this isn't just about DACA, which countless legal experts have attested to its constitutionality, but about a fringe base that continues with its aim to dehumanize the immigrant community and ignore the great contributions that these students, workers, and community members are providing to our state and country.

“Trump’s decision today merely cowers to the anti-immigrant, racist, and white supremacist movement that continues to be emboldened by his administration. New Mexico Immigrant Law Center will continue to stand alongside our partner organizations to stand up against these hateful actions and to support strong local policies and services that recognize the dignity and contributions of all of New Mexico’s immigrant community.”

Andrea Plaza, Executive Director for Encuentro said,

“DACA provided improved stability and increased economic security for our New Mexico community. To eliminate this policy is anti-family, anti-business, anti-education, and simply short-sighted. We have seen incredible benefits to our community and our local economy with since the implementation of DACA. For Encuentro alone, dozens of families have seen their household incomes improve while also enrolling in continued educational programs. These are two issues New Mexico has been struggling to address for decades, and with the initiation of DACA, immigrant youth were now leading the charge.

“We cannot afford to take steps backwards, but rather must look to the immediate future to pass comprehensive immigration legislation that will allow millions more to contribute and grow our nation.”

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Listo NM, is an Albuquerque-based collaborative of nonprofit organizations– including [El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos](#), [NM Dream Team \(NMDT\)](#), [Encuentro](#), and the [New Mexico Immigrant Law Center \(NMILC\)](#)– focused on supporting immigrant integration statewide and related support programs, services and advocacy, ensuring low-income immigrants have access to social and legal services for Immigration and Administrative Relief, to foster leadership development and to promote economic and civic engagement in immigrant communities.