



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Local Media Contacts:

Flaviano Graciano | flavianograciano@gmail.com | 505.305.8637

Maria Jose Ramos | mramos_elcentro@yahoo.com | [505.246.1627](tel:505.246.1627)

Kevin Bixby | kevin@wildmesquite.org | 575.522.5552

Johana Bencomo | johana@organizenm.org | 575.545.3412

U.S. Senate Rejects Trump's Nativist, Racist Agenda on Immigration

New Mexico Immigrants' Rights and Conservation Groups Welcome the Leadership by Both U.S. Senators, Tom Udall & Martin Heinrich After Having Rejected All Proposals Based on the White House 'Immigration Proposal'

Albuquerque, N.M. - Today, the U.S. Senate defeated Trump's immigration plan by rejecting Toomey proposal ([S. Amdt. 1948](#)) and Rounds-King proposal ([S. Amdt. 1958](#)). The votes come after months of intense negotiations and activism sparked by Trump's killing of the DACA and TPS programs which have put millions of immigrants in danger.

Both of New Mexico's U.S. Senators, Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich, voted NO on all proposals that followed Trump's "four pillars" on immigration reform. Both Senators [voted in favor](#) of McCain/Coon proposal ([S. Amdt. 1955](#)), which was not perfect, but presented a bipartisan step to bring about a DACA fix without throwing the rest of the immigrant community under the bus.

Gabriela Hernandez, DACA recipient, executive director for the NM Dream Team and southwest regional organizer for United We Dream, said,

"Actions speak louder than words and today the democratic leadership from New Mexico stood with immigrant families and rejected a nativist agenda which is Trump's 'Immigration Proposal.'

"Any proposal based on the pillars would only give some a path to citizenship in exchange for gutting our legal immigration system, ending 5 of 7 family reunification categories, ending the diversity visa program, turbocharging Trump's deportation force by adding rogue ICE and CPB agents, and sending children back to the violence they fled.

“Congress needs to focus on a bill that can pass in the coming days. A massive bill and a sprawling legislative process based on Trump’s radical agenda is unacceptable and unworkable. We call on all Members of Congress and all people of conscience to work through Trump’s stubbornness to deliver a breakthrough.”

Marian Mendez-Cera, a community organizer at El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos who would have benefited directly from a Clean Dream Act, said,

“We laud our New Mexican Senators for their bravery at standing for New Mexican values by rejecting the most cynical, xenophobic, and harmful Republican bills which attempted to trade protections for DREAMers in exchange for the targeting of our families and communities of color.

“Legislation based on Trump’s “pillars” would have wasted 25 billion dollars on a border wall and border militarization, eroded our family-based immigration system, and expanded an already out-of-control deportation force.

“Let’s not forget that Trump created this crisis back in November of last year when he ended DACA and put thousands of DREAMers at risk of deportation. At the same time, our communities have not taken a break from organizing. Our movement grows every day and we will not rest until we end the targeting and persecution of our families. We urge our Congressional delegation to continue to hold the line for New Mexico’s families and to support legislation that reflects our values as a state, invests in our communities, and keeps our families together.”

Kevin Bixby, executive director of the Southwest Environmental Center said,

“Today we are proud of our Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich for standing firm against cynical deals that would have traded justice for Dreamers for massive amounts of funding to build a border wall that would have caused irreparable harm to New Mexico’s wildlife and communities. We applaud our senators for rejecting Trump’s efforts to further militarize the borderland.”

Johana Bencomo, community organizer for NM Comunidades en Acción y de Fé (CAFÉ), said,

“We thank our NM Senators for rejecting the \$25 billion ransom and the extremist agenda of the Trump administration to further militarize our communities, which directly threatened the lives of thousands of Border Dreamers and their families.”

###