Working Families & Worker Justice Organizations Celebrate PTO Ordinance!

On October 15, low-wage workers & working families played a key role in ensuring that the strongest paid time off ordinance, was approved.

On August 20, business lobbyists pressure commissioners to dilute this ordinance. In response, Commissioners Pyskoty and Quezada submitted an amendment to limit the PTO coverage. However, due to our community’s fight, improvements were made to the ordinance that will cover more workers.

This victory sends a clear message that our community will not stand idly by when corporate interests try to influence votes. This is a step in the right direction to request improvements in the future to ensure the widest coverage for all our families.

“I feel very proud of our community for having fought for years for this right that all workers deserve,” said Olga Santana of El CENTRO who also testified to the commissioners during this meeting.
The ordinance will now take effect in January 2020 and workers will not have to wait 90 days to accommodate their paid free time.

In addition, the penalty that employers who retaliate against their workers will also be increasing. ¡Seguimos en la lucha!

**NewNM License/ID is Implemented**

On October 1, after years of political debate and litigation, the new SB 278 law came into effect, which introduced the new standard license / ID in New Mexico.

Now the process of getting a driver’s license / id is more efficient. The law will eliminate the requirement to take the prints when the driver’s license (DAC) is processed for the first time and they will not have to provide social security or ITIN number. In addition, people will now have more time to renew their non-federal license from two to four years.

The new “New Mexico Driver’s License / ID” will now look a little different.

**Supreme Court to Evaluate DACA**

If you have children who are DACA beneficiaries or if you are a DACA beneficiary, you must know that you must renew your DACA as soon as possible. On November 12th the Supreme Court will evaluate this case and listen to the Trump Administration’s arguments to end DACA.

DACA protects young people, who came to the U.S. when they were children, from a deportation. According to United We Dream, DACA has helped protect more than 800,000 people to excel in this country. But for now only beneficiaries who have had DACA in the past can renew their DACA & new applications are not being accepted.
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I am originally from Jalisco, Mexico & I am a beneficiary of DACA who has been able to work in this country under this protection,” said Marian Mendez Cera of the CENTRO. “But in addition to continuing to fight for DREAMERS we must also continue to fight to expand the protections to our parents that contribute so much to our communities.”

Due to the fact that we do not know what the Court will decide our families should be prepared and plan ahead.

Likewise, we must continue in the fight to ensure that our families are not separated and not allow our youth to remain without this protection that also helps them to work in the country.

To learn more about how you can join the movement to protect our families call El CENTRO at 505-246-1627.

Public Charge Rule Blocked by a Federal Judge in Manhattan for Now

On October 11, the public charge rule was blocked by a preliminary national order by a federal judge in Manhattan, New York.

The ruling prohibits the government from implementing the new standard, which would have been implemented on October 15.

“Our immigrant community contributes a lot to the cultural, civic and economic fabric of our state and nation,” said Fabiola Landeros, a community organizer at El CENTRO. “No family should be forced to choose between being able to feed their children or having access to medical care or risk family separation. In New Mexico, we value caring for our families and neighbors, so we are pleased that this ruling has put this public charge rule on hold.”

Thanks to this ruling, for now, our families will not have to choose between being able to feed their families or endangering their future in the US!

¡Seguimos en la lucha!

Representative Haaland Visits El CID

On October 4, Representative Deb Haaland visited El CENTRO to talk with members and the community about the problem of family separation as well as how she can support our immigrant working families.

During these talks with the Congresswoman, members of El CENTRO who have been affected by a separation, families shared their history with her, asking her to support proposals for legislation to help end this problem.

If you want a printed copy in English, please call us at: 505-246-1627 or email: ElCentroNM.org
In addition, members of El CENTRO also spoke about El CENTRO’s efforts to advance workers’ rights.

“I will continue to fight and do everything possible to ensure that our children and families are safe and that we are the country that we should be, one that welcomes our immigrant families,” said Representative Deb Haaland.

At the end of the meeting with the congresswoman, community organizers of El CENTRO held a workshop to let our community know about how to best protect themselves from a deportation and protect members of our community from this possibility.

“It was a very valuable experience for me to be able to speak with the Congresswoman & inform her of what we are seeing and living in our communities,” said Lucy Hernandez. “I would like to see more of our representatives have this same type of accessibility.”

Representative Haaland mentions that she will continue her fight against family separations.