



STATEMENT URGING CONGRESS TO PASS DACA BIPARTISAN LEGISLATION

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On Monday the U.S. Senate voted 97-1 to begin debate on a potential bill that could address the status of the individuals in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The Board of the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA) supports a bipartisan legislative resolution and urges members of Congress to pass permanent legislation immediately and end the fear and uncertainty about the future of the DACA program.

Over 700,000 DACA recipients – also known as Dreamers – were brought to the United States as minors. The DACA recipients met DACA’s various legal requirements, paid a fee to the U.S. Treasury, filed the correct documentation, and only then were able to continue their studies or careers.

In January 2018, a California federal court issued a preliminary injunction temporarily blocking the phasing out of DACA. Without this intervention, there was potential for over 100 individuals a day to lose their DACA protection. The only true protection, however, is legislation.

“Dreamers are not only integral members of our society and economy, they are our family, friends, and neighbors,” stated Isaac Faz, President of the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association. “For many of these individuals, this is the only country they know, and ours is the only anthem they sing.”

Texas is home to the second largest DACA population, and the Dallas-Ft. Worth area – with approximately 36,000 DACA recipients – leads the state. Over the past 30 days, the DHBA has sponsored DACA workshops with community organizations and will continue to assist in any way possible.

“A majority of Americans support legislation to protect DACA recipients. As the DACA debate continues, we ask Congress to look at this issue with an open mind and open heart,” added Faz.

The Dallas Hispanic Bar Association (DHBA) is the largest Hispanic Bar association in north Texas and affiliated with the Dallas Bar Association. We are a non-profit, non-partisan organization with the goal to promote the social, economic, educational, and civic advancement of the DFW Metroplex Hispanic community by making the legal system more accessible to the Hispanic community and more responsive to its needs.