

For Immediate Release:

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DALLAS HISPANIC BAR ASSOCIATION RELEASES STATEMENT SUPPORTING U.S. SUPREME COURT DECISION

Dallas, TX – Today the U.S. Supreme Court sided with Dreamers. In *Department of Homeland Security et al. v. Regents of the University of California et al.* the Court, in a major 5-4 <u>decision</u>, rejected the Trump administration's attempt to rescind the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Specifically, the Court found that the Trump administration's decision to terminate DACA was "arbitrary and capricious."

"This is a great day for DACA recipients, Dreamers, families, and immigration advocates," stated Dallas Hispanic Bar President Isaac Faz. "For many who benefit from DACA, this country is the only country they know, the only anthem they sing, the only place they call home. Texas has the second highest number of DACA recipients. They are our neighbors, our family, our essential workers including doctors and educators."

DACA is an Obama-era program that began in June of 2012 which provided work authorization and a temporary reprieve from deportation to eligible undocumented immigrants who had arrived in the United States as minors. To be eligible, these young immigrants needed to meet several requirements, including not being convicted of a felony, being currently enrolled, or having graduated from high school, or honorably discharged from the military. Applicants were also required to pay a \$495 application fee, which the Dallas Hispanic Bar Association has sponsored in the past to support Dreamers.

"DACA recipients are contributing members in our society and have quite literally embodied the American Dream. These are hardworking individuals, including approximately 27,000 health workers fighting Covid-19, and over 450,000 undocumented students who are enrolled in higher education. They also contribute to our economy by paying federal, state, and local taxes," added Faz.

A Center for American Progress report found that DACA recipients and their households hold \$24.1 billion in spending power and pay \$5.7 billion in federal taxes and \$3.1 billion in state and local taxes annually. By any measure, Dreamers form a critical part of our society and support the communities they call home.

"This decision is only the beginning. We still need to find a permanent resolution to protect the 700,000 DACA recipients and the other individuals that were too young to apply. It's time for Congress and this administration to act. We must continue to advocate, to educate and voice our opinions via the ballot box in local, state, and federal elections."

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