

Hispanic Affairs Project



300 N. Cascade Ave, Suite C-4, Montrose CO 81401
www.hapgj.org (970) 249.4115

June 24, 2016

The Supreme Court failed to rule in favor of DAPA and expanded DACA, the two initiatives announced by President Obama to ensure deportation relief and work authorization to an estimated 5 million undocumented immigrants.

GRAND JUNCTION—The Hispanic Affairs Project, HAP expressed disappointment in relation to the June 23, ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the case of *United States v. Texas*, in which some states are challenging immigration guidelines issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security, related to the DAPA and expanded DACA programs.

The Court deadlocked in a 4-4 tie, which means that the programs will remain preliminarily blocked nationwide from going into effect, and the matter will return to the 5th Circuit federal trial court for further proceedings. **The original DACA program, implemented in 2012, is not affected by the injunction, and eligible immigrants can continue to apply for and renew their deferred action and work authorization.**

As immigrant base organization in western Colorado, we can see in our own communities the positive social and economic impact of this type of immigration relief by looking to the past 3 years since the original DACA guidelines were announced. Many youth and young adults are now part of the work force, pursuing higher education, buying houses, and helping their parents with medical and other living expenses.

We want to express our gratitude to President Obama, Senator Michael Bennet, many other pro-immigrant legislators, and our receiving community for their solidarity. They believe that America is about fair opportunities for all, and they are trying to give us a fair chance. Comprehensive immigration reform is necessary to fix our broken system. Many of those who would qualify for DAPA or expanded DACA are “in line,” waiting for visas to be available in preference categories that have waits of up to 20 years. Sadly, Congress is not acting to solve this problem, and the economic and human cost is impacting the entire society.

For now, HAP will continue providing support to the communities of western Colorado, especially to those whose qualify for DACA, citizenship applicants and those eligible for other immigration adjustment under current law through the Immigration Legal Assistance Program. HAP members are committed to advocating for immigrants and refugees, to keep families together, because this is a core value and strength of our Country. So, together, we continue to fight for the people we love.

Contacts: Ricardo Perez 970.417.6127; Nicole Ruiz 970.250.5387
