



September 5, 2017

Los Abogados Statement Regarding End to DACA Program

Phoenix, AZ - From the initial announcement of his Presidential campaign, to today's rescinding of the DACA program, President Trump, his administration, and his supporters have made one thing clear: they view Hispanics as chattel to be used for political gain. The most recent salvo - the ending of the DACA program - strikes at America's core ideal that all people have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This powerful ideal drew people from across the world, and other nations have modeled their frameworks after it. Although this ideal was not equally applied at our start, it has since spread through our Nation with an unstoppable force that will continue until all can experience its meaning.

The current Administration's ending of the DACA program was not unexpected. If this decision was purely a legal decision, then the harsh reality felt would not exist. But time and time again, this Administration, in its rhetoric and actions, has demonstrated that it is unwilling to extend fundamental principles of our Nation to anyone in the immigrant community. President Trump and his supporters have successfully terminated a dream in which a people can be free of tyranny; justice is assured to all; and success is not a measure of your birth, but a measure of your work. While the cruelty of this decision pains us today, this Administration will one day join the other dark points in our Nation's memory. We must trust that the American Spirit and its unrelenting determination are alive and well in all those who seek something more.

At this time, Congress must change our immigration laws to reflect America's ideals and spirit. We must change our immigration policy to one that welcomes those who desire to work hard, and is once again a beacon throughout the world. Begin the process immediately, free from political posturing, to enact revisions to immigration law that provides protections to Dreamers.

Congress must come together to correct the failings of this Administration and restore the ideal that all people have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

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Los Abogados is Arizona's Hispanic Bar Association. Founded in 1976 and incorporated in 1988, members of Los Abogados include private and public attorneys, judges, businesspeople, paralegals, and law students. Members practice throughout Arizona and presently serve as officers and directors of county, state, and federal bar associations. The mission of Los Abogados is to enhance the legal profession by promoting diversity, improving the quality and administration of legal services, encouraging education in the Latino community, supporting the just application of Civil Rights, and advocating for the Latino community. Los Abogados is an affiliate of the National Hispanic Bar Association.

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