

From: Office of the Governor Site Support

Sent: 4/18/2015 8:10:25 AM

To: Haley, Nikki

Cc:

Subject: Suspend Our State's Involvement in any Litigation Attacking DACA and DAPA

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April 18, 2015

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Dear Governor Haley,

As your constituent and a member of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), I write to express my disappointment with our state's move to join litigation aimed at dismantling the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the newly established Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program.

Announced by President Obama on November 20, 2014, these two programs have the potential to help 5 million immigrants assimilate into American life without fear of deportation or the threat of family separation. I strongly support these programs and believe that our state should be working with the President in his immigration reforms, not making it easier to deport hard-working individuals.

#### **PRESIDENT OBAMA HAS FULL AUTHORITY TO IMPLEMENT DACA AND DAPA**

President Obama has full authority to use his powers to enact executive action on immigration. As described by 126 legal scholars who weighed in regarding President Obama's executive authority — the expansion of the DACA program and the establishment of Deferred Action for Parental Accountability are legal exercises of prosecutorial discretion. Both executive actions are well within the legal authority of the executive branch of the government of the United States. Moreover, the Supreme Court has also provided the President with clear guidance regarding his authority. In a 2012 case, *Arizona v. the US*, the court maintained that the deportation process allows immigration authorities to act with broad discretion, including whether to pursue removal at all. Congress's refusal to improve the immigration system allowed President Obama to act within the parameters of his authority to initiate meaningful immigration reform.

## DEPORTING 5 MILLION PEOPLE IS UNREALISTIC, COSTLY, AND MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE

According to the Center for American Progress, the fiscal cost of deporting the nearly 5 million people protected by DACA and DAPA would be \$50 billion. This doesn't take into account the logistical nightmare of trying to deport hardworking, law-abiding immigrants who work in all sectors of our economy and form the backbone of key industries. Perhaps the most devastating toll, however, would be the traumatizing effects on Latino families. Splitting up families by deporting mothers, fathers, uncles, aunts, brothers and sisters will create fractured homes and cause irreparable harm to families across the country.

## LATINOS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC SUPPORT COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Recent polling highlights the tremendous disconnect between the states pursuing litigation to dismantle DACA and DAPA and the Latino community. Over 89 percent of Latino voters approve of the President's actions accompanied by 60 percent of the general American public. In a poll conducted by Public Religion Research, 60 percent of Americans support a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants — including a majority in every single state of the United States. Given this information, state resources are better utilized focusing on building consensus on the issue of immigration reform rather than making it a partisan wedge used to further divide our state.

The Latino community is closely monitoring the actions of our state, and moving to dismantle DACA and DAPA in the courts will send the unfortunate, hateful message that Latino immigrants are not welcome in our state. Today, I join the 135,000 members of the League of United Latin American Citizens urging you to suspend our state's involvement in any litigation seeking to dismantle the DACA and DAPA programs.

Sincerely,  
Phillip McLaurin