

Boletín de prensa DACA and dreamers

Alejandra Castañeda

Ever since Donald Trump won the elections, the first thought for many immigration advocates was about the future of dreamers. With such anti-immigrant rhetoric displayed during the campaign and having surrounded himself with clearly anti-immigrant politicians such as Jeff Sessions and Kris Kobach, the future of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has remained unclear.

At first the administration indicated that they were keeping the program, even though Trump campaigned against it. He later changed his mind and expressed support for dreamers and his reluctance to terminate the program. More concretely, DACA renewals have continued throughout the year, and on June 15, 2017 former DHS Secretary John Kelly announced that the program would remain while DAPA—which was challenged in courts and never implemented—was cancelled.¹

In spite of the administration support to DACA, the recalcitrant anti-immigration forces spearheaded by Texas threatened a lawsuit by September

¹ DHS. Rescission of Memorandum Providing for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (“DAPA”). DHS, retrieved August 29, 2017. <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/06/15/rescission-memorandum-providing-deferred-action-parents-americans-and-lawful>

As stated in the Frequently Asked Questions section about the memorandum: “DACA recipients will continue to be eligible as outlined in the June 15, 2012 memorandum. DACA recipients who were issued three-year extensions before the district court’s injunction will not be affected, and will be eligible to seek a two-year extension upon their expiration. No work permits will be terminated prior to their current expiration dates.” In DHS. *Frequently Asked Questions: Rescission of Memorandum Providing for Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents*. Retrieved August 29, 2017, <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2017/06/15/frequently-asked-questions-rescission-memorandum-providing-deferred-action-parents>

5th against the federal government to force it to rescind the program.² This would require a defense by the Office of the Attorney General, which is lead by Jeff Sessions, an adamant opponent of DACA.

The only option for dreamers and DACA is an executive renewal of the program, the opponent states could take it to court but dreamers would remain protected. As the deadline set by Texas Attorney General approaches dreamers are nervous but also activating their advocacy network.

In the past days we have a witnessed national campaigns in support of DACA and dreamers going from immigration advocacy organizations, religious leaders, to business leaders. Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, for example, dedicated a day on his Facebook page to call for support for DACA protected dreamers. Business leaders from companies like Apple, Amazon, Microsoft, LinkedIn, Lyft, Best Buy, Starbucks, General Motors, among many more have signed a letter in support.³

A permanent solution for dreamers is to pass the DREAM Act in Congress. With an uncertain outcome, dreamers await for a solution to their conundrum, an opportunity to live their lives without the worry of being deported and losing their present and their future.

² The Attorney general of texas. *“AG Paxton Leads 10-State Coalition Urging Trump Administration to Phase Out Unlawful Obama-Era DACA Program.”* June 29, 2017. <https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/news/releases/ag-paxton-leads-10-state-coalition-urging-trump-administration-to-phase-out>

³ Open Letter from Leaders of American Industry on DACA. August 31, 2017. https://dreamers.fwd.us/business-leaders?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=protect-dreamers&utm_term=&utm_content=