



Official Statement

On Urging State Officials to Support Reinstatement of DACA Program
November 29th, 2017

2017
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In its advisory role to the Michigan governor and the state legislature, the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan hereby encourages officials and private persons to support the reinstatement of the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The economic, social, and ideological benefits of the program, explored below, will help the State of Michigan to be a thought leader in immigration and an example to the nation.

From an economic perspective, Migration Policy Institute research estimates that about 14,903 DACA participants (“Dreamers”) reside in the State of Michigan¹. The CATO Institute also estimates that the DACA repeal will cost the State around \$768M in lost tax revenue, and around \$2.75B in lost State GDP over the next ten years². In light of the strong business environment, these estimates may be low. The State may also benefit in the form of H1B worker visa reductions, given that DACA participants attend college at a 72% rate, with 17% of them on track to complete advanced degrees³. Furthermore, Dreamers that average 25 years of age earn a per capita income of \$41,621⁴ (only \$2,725 less than the average per capita income of the much older MI population⁵).

Beyond the obvious social benefits that come from increased diversity, at an average age of 22, Dreamers are about 20 years younger than the average Michigan resident, and are also more educated⁶. Additional social benefits come from Dreamers’ college educations, as the average college graduate tends to have lower divorce rates, lower crime rates, and higher community involvement, when compared to the average person without a college degree⁷. As a group, Dreamers are a desirable population that will help ensure Michigan remains a vibrant, prosperous place to live and raise a family.

DACA affords the State of Michigan the unique opportunity to exercise immigration thought leadership in the following ways:

- **Human Dignity.** This nation has been the beacon of Human Rights for generations. We should show dignity and respect for each other regardless of legal status.
- **Justice.** As minors when they arrived in the United States, Dreamers should not be held culpable for the trespasses of their parents.
- **Rule of Law.** Dreamers obey the law of the land, have been fingerprinted, and have cleared background checks. As such, they should be treated as law-abiding members of society.
- **State-Level Immigration Reform.** Current Federal immigration laws are inadequate, and have led forward-thinking states such as MD, CA, IL, NE, CO, SD, and NJ, to enact legislature to serve their constituents. Michigan should be counted among these leaders.

DACA began as an Executive Order that did not result in congressional action. That delay has created an unsustainable situation for Dreamers and our society. While Executive Orders are enacted and repealed as a natural part of our system of government, DACA’s repeal created a situation that threatens the only life that most Dreamers know. Furthermore, DACA’s inability to provide a viable solution for Dreamers is no fault of the upstanding young men and women enrolled in the program. In light of the lack of federal immigration reform and the benefits to the State of Michigan, to the Hispanic/Latino community, and to other minority communities in the State, the Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan strongly supports the continuation of DACA and the enactment of State-level immigration reform.

Noel Garcia Jr.
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¹<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/programs/data-hub/deferred-action-childhood-arrivals-daca-profiles>

²<https://www.cato.org/blog/economic-budgetary-cost-repealing-daca-state-level>

³<http://www.newsweek.com/dreamers-daca-statistics-trump-deadline-657201>

⁴<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

⁵<http://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa/economics/US&MichiganPerCapitaPersonalIncome.PDF>

⁶<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/michigan/>

⁷<https://www.collegetransitions.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/hout-returns-to-college-education.pdf>