



PRESS STATEMENT --- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE UNITED STATES TOP BULLY DOES IT AGAIN!

Today Donald Trump and his administration announced the “phasing out” of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, giving Congress six months to potentially legislate on protections for 800,000 current beneficiaries.

Dreamers are integral members of our society, as are ALL youth –ultimately the future leaders and labor force of not only this country, but of the globe. DACA beneficiaries represent some of this nation’s greatest assets, uniquely bi-cultural, bi-lingual and transnational members of our society. Raised in the U.S., educated in our schools, children and youth from our blocks, neighborhoods and cities. They have done more than their part by contributing actively to the social, cultural, civic and economic landscape of this nation, same as their families, same as the 11+ million immigrants conveniently exploited, eternally excluded and violated, solely to protect the interests of a “few” committed to perpetuating racist and oppressive social, political and economic structures of power. These systems and economic models make this nation one of the richest, but also one of the most undereducated, unhealthy, violent, racist, unequal and divided “developed” nations in the world –The system is broken, and we have been, are and will continue advancing a vision to fix it.

“The first day that DACA was announced, CARECEN opened its doors. Young people and their families filled our office with an excitement and optimism that I had never experienced in my professional career. We knew DACA was not enough but it was a step in the right direction. Now with DACA being taken away, our doors will remain open. We will keep them open to fight this administration and it's inhumane, xenophobic, and racist policies”. Said Laura Sanchez, CARECEN SF’s Immigration Legal Program Director.

"After 19 years of sacrifice, hard work, endless sweat from my father working 12+ hours to bring bread to our family table, after 19 years of calling this country MY HOME, I won't leave today and I won't leave tomorrow." Said a CARECEN DACA beneficiary.

CARECEN’s mission is to empower and respond to the needs, defend the rights and forge the aspirations of ALL immigrants, people in the United States and in our countries of origin. Yesterday, today and tomorrow we will continue to affirm that we are #HereToStay #AquiNosQuedamos. We are committed to the vision of *un mañana mejor* –a better tomorrow, we are committed to the community we serve, our 800,000 DREAMERS, and to the on-going demand for a just, humane and dignified immigration system reform that keeps families together, stops deportations, expands access and protects the right to justice.

Born of the Central American social justice movements and US solidarity in the 1980's/cold war era, CARECEN was founded by refugees forced to flee their countries as a result of US military interventions in the region –refugees that inspired and worked tirelessly for what we know today as Sanctuary Cities Movement., refugees that today continue contributing their hard work, and social assets to the growth of this nation.

CARECEN SF is ready despite this setback to continue working in community, to keep our doors open, to inform, respond and advocate for the long overdue and much awaited U.S. immigration system overhaul.

In response to this announcement, CARECEN will be:

- Holding 2 daily “Charlas” (workshops) Monday-Friday 11am and 4pm at our Main Offices
- Promoting Know Your Rights information and responses to FAQ’s about this decision
- Launching a “Shame on You” campaign so DREAMERS and allies can flood the white house with postcards letting them know that we will RESIST
- Providing legal consultation for 100% of DACA beneficiaries and their families that walk through our doors, in order to screen for other potential forms of relief
- Immigration legal document processing support and filing for those who may qualify for other immigration programs
- We will continue to work with our local and national advocacy partners, elected officials and allies to expand protections, impact policies and ensure access to immigration legal services
- Produce bi-lingual and accessible information via social media, our website and other community based platforms
- Continue our work in Mesoamerica to inform, connect and advocate on behalf of migrants forced to leave, on their journey and in receiving countries.
- Continuing our commitment and advocacy to achieve a just, humane and dignified immigration system reform.

HUMAN MIGRATION IS A RIGHT!

Community members can connect with CARECEN’s:

- Immigration Legal Program
- Second Chance Youth Program & Tattoo Removal Clinic
- Family Wellness and Health Promotion Programs
- Advocacy, Community Building, and Leadership Development Activities

For more information about this decision and how to engage in local, state and national advocacy actions visit our website at www.carecensf.org

The Central American Resource Center –CARECEN of Northern California’s core pillars include excellence in social services, advocacy and advancing a transnational vision for our people to thrive in the U.S. and in our countries of origin.