

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Wednesday, August 24, 2022**

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## **Amid a Growing Hostile Environment Statewide, the Florida Immigrant Coalition Asks for More Protections For Undocumented American Youth After the New DACA Rule**

*While the final rule allows current DACA recipients to breathe a little easier, it still leaves many more without the program's protection and we need something permanent!*

**FLORIDA** – Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas announced yesterday that the Department has issued a [final rule](#) that will preserve and fortify the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy. However, as thousands of Floridian families face ever-increasing attacks against them, simply because they or their loved ones were born in another country, we need a solution. We call on the Biden administration to not only protect the new generation of undocumented American youth who have no way of getting a legal permanent status, but also create solutions that offer permanent protections.

DACA has been a resounding success with nearly 800,000 young people having been able to contribute to their communities, work, go to school and live their lives without fear of being ripped away from their families and from the country they consider home.

***Director of Campaigns for the Florida Immigrant Coalition, Paula Muñoz said,***

*“Our work is hard and the anti-immigrant climate in Florida is brutal. We have been asking for permanent solutions to programs like DACA for a long time and while we are glad that there is an attempt to codify it, we understand that this is not enough. As a practical matter, the rule changes virtually nothing about DACA: the bureaucracy, application process, eligibility criteria,*

*and costs remain the same. While the new rule would codify the existing policy, if it clears its current legal woes, unfortunately it does nothing to address the needs of thousands of immigrant youth who arrived in the U.S. a few days, months, or years too late, or who were a few years too old, to qualify for the program. DACA eligibility has been suspended in time and an ever-growing population of immigrant youth have been shut out of the program. We need the program to expand, we need more undocumented youth to be able to be shielded by it, and ultimately we need a path to citizenship!”*

***Yareliz Mendez-Zamora, Federal Campaign Lead for the Florida Immigrant Coalition stated,***  
*“Recent attempts by Republican lawmakers to weaken or even eliminate the program are heinous and dangerous. The over 800,000 people covered by DACA are integral parts of our communities and everyday lives. Over 250,000 children have been born in the United States with at least one parent who is a DACA recipient, and about 1.5 million people in the United States share a home with a DACA recipient. While codifying DACA is a step in the right direction, we are dismayed that there is no expansion of the program. We also want to take the opportunity to amplify the fact that the process to apply for work permits remains the same, and we encourage folks to talk to an attorney.”*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, June 15, 2021**

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## **Now It's Critical: DREAMers Need a Permanent Solution**

*Both DACA, TPS Recipients and Essential Workers require a path to citizenship*

**(FLORIDA)** - Today, Judge Andrew Hanen from the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas ruled to halt the processing of first-time DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival) applicants, while allowing for existing renewals to continue - for now. It is now more critical than ever for immigrant communities, including DACA recipients, to have a permanent solution and a pathway to citizenship. We have a historic opportunity to push permanency for DACA recipients, TPS recipients, farmworkers, and essential workers through the reconciliation process and need Florida Senators and members of Congress to champion these efforts. The decision by Judge Hanen is a crushing blow to the successful DACA program and forces Congress to prioritize immigration once and for all.

***The following is a statement from Ilse a DACA beneficiary:***

*“DACA does not equate to stability. It is not enough; not when a judge can change everything. This is exhausting. Nine years of constant limbo, nine years of fighting and having to prove that we are valuable enough to be here. We aren't toys or walking dollar signs.”*

***The following is a statement from Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director of the Florida Immigra***

*“The DACA ruling reminds us that despite its success, this temporary program is not enough, with our young people still living in limbo and require a permanent solution. Senators Marco Rubio and Rick Scott have the historic opportunity to join their counterparts in the House and pass legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for millions of young immigrants, like those who have benefited from DACA, to apply for permanent residency. The US House of Representatives, including the South Florida Congressional delegation, already passed their version. We need our elected leaders to come through for families who have been waiting for far too long.”*

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**Lo siguiente es una declaración de Ariel Rojas, un beneficiario de DACA:**