

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



Resolution No. 2017.06

Resolution In Support of Codifying DACA into Federal Law

WHEREAS, On September 5, 2017, the current Administration ordered an end to the program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, and the Administration has urged Congress to identify a replacement within six months before the Administration phases out DACA's protections. The outcome will determine the legal status and ultimate fate of approximately 800,000 immigrants, known as "Dreamers", who were brought into the United States as children and who are eligible - under the existing DACA program - to apply for temporary residency in the United States; and

WHEREAS, in an act of faith and trust in America's promise of opportunity and the historical legal principle of not punishing children for the actions of their parents and/or guardians, "Dreamers" gave their names, addresses and telephone numbers to the United States Government to participate in the DACA program; and

WHEREAS, the callous decision by the current Administration to end the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is antithetical to American values and abandons the promise made to more than 800,000 individuals pursuing the American Dream.

WHEREAS, the average DACA recipient immigrated to the United States when they were six years old and has spent the majority of their lives living in the United States;

WHEREAS, the DACA Program has offered the opportunity for hundreds of thousands of Americans to reach their educational goals regardless of their immigration status;

WHEREAS, this shortsighted political calculation of ending DACA inhibits the aspirations of 222,795 Californians including the 72,000 estimated to be California community college students; and

WHEREAS, our vision for California's community colleges is to provide access to a quality public higher education for Californians, and as the largest public system of higher education in the United States, we take great pride in being the pathway to opportunity for Californians of all backgrounds.

WHEREAS, a study of DACA recipients by the University of California, San Diego, found that the incomes of those participating in the program increased by 45%;

WHEREAS, a recent analysis by the CATO Institute found that the U.S. economy could be reduced by \$215 billion, and the federal government would lose \$60 billion in tax revenues with the elimination of DACA;

WHEREAS, DACA recipients are ineligible for federally funded financial aid programs such as subsidized loans, grants, scholarships or work study, subsidies provided by the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid, food stamps or cash assistance despite paying income, sales, and other taxes;

WHEREAS, seventy percent of DACA recipients are in school and 92% of them identify DACA as permitting them to pursue educational opportunities previously unavailable;

WHEREAS, to qualify for DACA eligible applicants must not have committed a felony or significant misdemeanor, have been brought into the country under the age of 16, have lived continuously in the United States since 2007 and have to be either currently in school, have graduated from high school or have been honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces;

WHEREAS, the President has put the educational goals and career aspirations of hundreds of thousands of Californians on hold and their future and America's economy at risk; and

WHEREAS, we remain steadfast in our commitment to educational opportunity and will stand with "Dreamers" to protect quality public community colleges for all Californians;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ventura County Community College District hereby urges the Congress of the United States, and our State and local leaders - in keeping with the highest and best traditions of our pluralistic constitutional democracy - to acknowledge and accept the moral imperative of relieving these victims of circumstance from the fear of deportation, and to provide our nation's "Dreamers" with continued relief from deportation, and a path to permanent citizenship; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ventura County Community College District urges Ventura County's Congressional members to uphold California values, and to fill the leadership void created by the current administration's decision, and to codify protections contained within the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program that will permit thousands of California "Dreamers" to achieve their highest potential.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees for Ventura County Community College District, in the County of Ventura, State of California, on this 17th day of October, 2017, by the following vote:

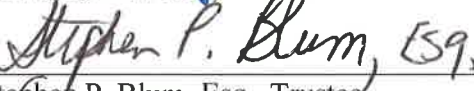
Adopted October 17, 2017:



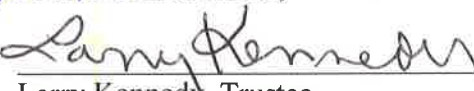
Bernardo M. Perez, Chair



Arturo D. Hernández, Vice Chair



Stephen P. Blum, Esq., Trustee



Larry Kennedy, Trustee



Dianne B. McKay, Trustee



Greg Gillespie, Pd.D., Chancellor