July 11, 2016

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As organizations committed to creating a more fair and just immigration system, we are disheartened by the failure of the U.S. Supreme Court to arrive at a decision in the United States v. Texas case. Had the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA) and the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA+) programs been allowed to move forward, they would have brought a measure of common sense to our dysfunctional immigration system and would have provided desperately needed relief to millions of American families who remain at risk of being torn apart by deportation.

We commend you for creating these programs and for defending them when challenged in the courts. We firmly believe that prosecutorial discretion provides you with the legal authority to grant deferred action to certain individuals through the DAPA and DACA programs. The nation’s leading immigration law scholars agree with this assessment.¹ We stand by you, undeterred, in support of these programs and hope that you will continue to fight for them and for American families.

Despite this temporary setback to the DAPA program, there are actions that your administration can immediately take to protect and strengthen the 2012 DACA program that would make a meaningful difference in the lives of DACA-mented youth and their families. We ask that you use your powers to provide all individuals granted relief through the DACA program with access to affordable health care to the same extent as other lawfully present people. It required both dedication and political courage to create the DACA program, as it did to pursue health reform when it had eluded so many of your predecessors. In order for each of these programs to succeed, they must be brought into alignment.

Health care restrictions against DACA-mented youth are unnecessary and unfair. We urge you to restore access to DACA-mented youth to programs under the ACA, as well as in Medicaid, and CHIP

Since 2012, when access to the ACA, Medicaid, and CHIP to DACA-mented youth was affirmatively denied, we have continued to ask your administration and HHS to undo the regulatory restrictions that prevent these individuals from accessing these programs. The restrictions against DACA-mented individuals are a radical and unnecessary departure from established federal rules and practices. Indeed, DACA is the exception: all other forms of deferred action are still considered to be lawfully present for purposes of the ACA, Medicaid, and CHIP. DACA-mented youth, though

¹ https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/_file/LAWPROFLTRHANENFINAL.pdf
they have been granted relief from deportation and are authorized to live and work in the U.S., remain essentially undocumented for purposes of health care access. The restriction against DACA grantees is unnecessary and unjust, and only undermines the spirit of both the DACA program and the ACA. You as President have the power to undo this restriction at any moment.

We urge you to extend the promise of meaningful and affordable health care to all deferred action recipients, without distinction. Doing so would provide DACA-mented youth with a real opportunity to stay healthy and to succeed in our communities.

The DACA program presents an opportunity to strengthen the Affordable Care Act

In your recent statement commemorating the sixth anniversary of the ACA, you stated:

“We’ve made good progress in the last six years. But we still have more work to do…After nearly a century of effort, and thanks to the thousands of people who fought so hard to pass and implement this law, we have at last succeeded in leaving our kids and grandkids a country where pre-existing conditions exclusions are a thing of the past, affordable options are within our reach, and health care is no longer a privilege, but a right.”

Thanks to your leadership, our health care system is better than when you entered office. Millions of previously uninsured Americans and their families now have the security that comes with access to affordable health insurance. However, we agree with you that the ACA, as incredible an achievement as it was, still leaves much more work to be done. We further agree that health care is not a privilege but a right, and that access to health care is fundamental to the wellbeing of all American communities. If your administration continues to deny DACA grantees access to the ACA it would, in essence, be denying access to these individuals due to their pre-existing condition, their immigration status. This is in direct conflict with the purpose and spirit of the ACA—to achieve a fully insured population to the greatest extent possible for the benefit of individual and public health.

No one in our country, no matter where they come from, should live in fear for their health. We urge the administration to act and rescind barriers to affordable health coverage and care for those granted DACA. With such policy changes, we would not only be improving the health and economic opportunities for immigrant families – but we would be taking critical steps towards investing in healthier and more prosperous communities for our society as a whole.

Sincerely,

National Groups (135)
9to5, National Association of Working Women
Advocates for Youth
African American Health Alliance
African American Ministers In Action

AIDS United
Alliance for Citizenship
American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)
America's Voice Education Fund
Andrew Goodman Foundation
Arab American Institute
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA)
Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence
Asian and Pacific Islander American Forum (APIAF)
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters
Black Alliance for Just Immigration (BAJI)
Caring Across Generations
CASA
Center for Community Change (CCC)
Center for Employment Training
Center for Human Rights and International Justice at Boston College
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Popular Democracy
Center for Reproductive Rights
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.
Chicago & Midwest Regional Joint Board, Workers United
Children's Defense Fund (CDF)
Church World Service (CWS)
Coalition for Disability Health Equity
Coalition on Human Needs (CHN)
Community Catalyst
DACCA
Daughter of Charity/ Ladies of Charity
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund
Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
DURRANI Foundation
Educators for Fair Consideration
Enlace
Families USA
Farmworker Justice
First Focus
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Global Justice Institute, Metropolitan Community Churches
Guttmacher Institute
Our Developing World
Pax Christi USA
People Demanding Action
People's Action
Physicians For A National Health Program
PICO National Network
Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)
Pre-Health Dreamers
Project Inform
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
Religious of the Sacred Heart
RESULTS
School Sisters of St. Francis
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Providence
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southern Poverty Law Center
TechWomen
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
The UndocuBlack Network
U. S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
UNITE HERE
United Farm Workers (UFW)
United We Dream (UWD)
Voto Latino
We Belong Together
Western States Center
Women's Refugee Commission
Young Invincibles

State and Local Groups (224)
9to5 California
9to5 Colorado
9to5 Georgia
9to5 Wisconsin
Ability Chicago Info
Access California Services
Access Living
African Community Center
African Family Holistic Health Organization
African Services Committee
AIDS Alabama
Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice
All Peoples Community Center
Alta Mira Specialized Family Services
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
Arkansas United Community Coalition
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus
Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Atlanta
Asian Americans United
Asian Law Alliance
Asociacion de Servicios para el Inmigrante
ASPIRE
Association for Chinese Families of the Disabled
Berkshire Immigrant Center
Boston College Center for Human Rights & International Justice
Brake the Cycle of Poverty
Brazilian Women's Group
Bread for the World, Maine
California Health Professional Student Alliance
California Immigrant Policy Center (CIPC)
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Partnership
California Primary Care Association
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Casa de Maryland
Casa de Virginia
Catholic Charities of Pueblo
Causa Oregon
Ceiba
Central American Resource Center-DC (CARECEN)
Centro Comunitario CEUS
Centro de Progreso, INC
Centura Health Links
Chapel of His Glory
Child Advocate
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund - New York
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Children's Defense Fund - California
Children's Defense Fund-Minnesota
Church Women United in New York State
Citizen Action of New York
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc
Clergy and Laity United For Economic Justice (Clue)
Cleveland Jobs with Justice

6
Clinica Monseñor Oscar A. Romero
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Council of Mexican Federations (COFEM)
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition (CIRC)
Community Action Association of Pennsylvania
Community Action Committee of Cape Cod & Islands
Community for the Advancement of Family Education
Community Service Society of New York
Consumer Health First
Domestic Violence Council
Dominican Sister ~ Grand Rapids
Dream Team LA
East Texas Human Needs Network
Education Equals Making Community Connections
El Quinto Sol de America
Emily Griffith Technical College
Empire Justice Center
Equality California
EverThrive Illinois
Families United
Family Forward Oregon
First Church Shelter
Franciscan Friars
Freedom at Emory
FWAF Fellsmere
Granite Falls School District
Hastings Students for Immigrant Rights
Having Our Say Coalition
Health Access California
Health Care for All New York
Health Care for All Oregon
Her Justice
Hilton Head for Peace
Hope For Carolina
Houston Community Services
Human Agenda
Hunger Action Los Angeles
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigrant Legal Center of Boulder County, Colorado
Immigrant Support And Assistance Center (ISAAC)
Impact NW
Inland Empire Immigrant Youth Coalition (IEIYC)
Instituto de Educacion Popular del Sur de California
Iowa Immigrants Voice Program
Irving park United Methodist Church
ISAIAH
Jewish Family Service
JPIC Network, Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH
Kitsap Immigrant Assistance Center
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York
La Hermandad Hank Lacayo Youth & Family Center
La Maestra Community Health Centers
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latinos United for a New America (LUNA)
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont
Leticia A. Network for Immigrant Access to California Higher Education
Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice
Lowcountry Immigration Coalition
Maine Equal Justice Partners
Make the Road New Jersey
Make the Road New York
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy (MIRA) Coalition
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute
MCH Access
Medicaid Matters New York
Michigan United
Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid
Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance
mommieactivist and sons
Mountain View Dreamers
NARAL Pro-Choice Oregon
National Latino Progressive Voter Party
Neighborhood Ministries
New Dimensions in Wellness
New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
New Jersey Center for Empowerment and Community Development
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Labor
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
North Carolina Community Health Center Association
Northwest Family Services
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Orange County Communities Organized for Responsible Development (OCCORD)
One in Four Chronic Health
OneAmerica
Oregon Center for Public Policy
Oregon Community Health Workers Association (ORCHWA)
Oregon Health Equity Alliance
Oregon Latino Health Coalition
Oxford Family Group Day Care
Peace Over Violence
PeterCares House
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon
Polonians Organized to Minister to Our Community, Inc. (POMOC)
Poor Peoples Alliance
Powell Law PLLC
Preble Street
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition
Public Justice Center
Reformed Church of Highland Park
RefugeeOne
RESULTS-Santa Fe
Rural Movement Initiative
Sacred Heart Community Service
Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church Hispanic Outreach Committee
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sharon Social Services
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants, Inc.
Sisters of Mercy - South Central (NC)
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Sisters of St Joseph-Baden.org
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Aberdeen, SD
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
Somos Mayfair
South Asian Network
Southeast Immigrant Rights Network
Southwest Women's Law Center
Spect-Actors Collective
SSJ Welcome Center
Strive 4 Success
TakeAction Minnesota
Templo Calvario Community Development Corporation
Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)
Tennessee Justice Center
The Center for Undocumented Students at Saint Peter's University
The Children's Partnership
The Evangelical Pastors Association of Hudson County
The Foundation for Economic and Social Justice
The Greenlining Institute
The New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
TODEC Legal Center
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey
United African Organization
Upstream Public Health
Utahns Against Hunger
VA Coalition for Immigrant Rights
Vermont Network Against Domestic and Sexual Violence
Violence Intervention Program
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)
Volunteers of Legal Service
WA Dream Coalition
Washington Community Action Network
Welcoming Center for New Pennsylvanians
West Valley Neighborhoods Coalition
Western Center on Law & Poverty
Western States Center
Wind of the Spirit, Immigrant Resource Center
Women Who Never Give Up
Women Working Together USA
Workers Defense Project
Xaverian Brothers
Young Immigrants in Action, YIA
Young Women United
Youth Health Service Corps
YWCA of Greater Portland
YWCA Tulsa

Cc:
The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services
Andy Slavitt, Acting Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
Denis McDonough, Chief of Staff to the President of the United States
Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to the President of the United States
Cecilia Munoz, Director, White House Domestic Policy Council
Felicia Escobar, Special Assistant to the President for Immigration Policy, White House DPC
Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Deputy Director of Public Engagement, White House
Manar Waheed, White House Domestic Policy Council
Jocelyn Samuels, Director, Office for Civil Rights, HHS
Dr. J. Nadine Gracia, Director, Office of Minority Health, HHS
Liliana Rañon, Office of Minority Health, HHS