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September 7, 2017

Dear members of Congress representing Fresno County:

On behalf of the Fresno Economic Opportunities Commission I respectfully add my voice to urging your support for the hundreds of thousands of kids who, through no fault of their own, face the grim prospect of being forced to leave the only home they've ever known by providing a path for citizenship for Dreamers.

On September 5, President Trump announced his decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in six months. We are asking that you work quickly and cooperatively with your colleagues to replace DACA with a compassionate and responsible plan that promotes dignity, and provides opportunities for participation in our economy and a prudent pathway towards citizenship.

The President's decision will have the effect of uprooting the lives of over 800,000 young people who have received two years of renewable work authorization and a temporary reprieve from deportation. These dreamers entered the country as children, have grown up here, and call the United States home. Dreamers are now a part of the social and economic fabric of Fresno and communities across the country. They are, for all intents and purposes, Americans.

The decision to end DACA runs counter to our values and historic success as a nation of immigrants. Fresno EOC stands with the growing host of major U.S. corporations, Governors, and community leaders across the country calling for a responsible, compassionate, and lawful pathway towards citizenship that allows dreamers to continue their substantial contributions to our economy, our communities, and the support of their families.

It is hard to understand the spirit that motivates any policymaker to end a program that provides the opportunity for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness to people who have broken no laws and contribute significantly to our country. Prosecuting children years later for the decisions of their parents is un-American.

We urge you to work closely with your colleagues in the Congress, and the White House, to deliver immigration reforms that promote dignity and responsible acclimation of individuals and families seeking liberty, opportunity, and prosperity, the hallmarks of this great nation.

Sincerely,

Brian Angus
Chief Executive Officer

CC: Representative Costa, Representative Nunes, Representative McClintock, Representative Valadao, Senator Feinstein, Senator Harris

