



NY Anti-Trafficking Network

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

DACA Repeal Would Spell Danger for Human Trafficking Victims

In this country we value opportunity. We value people who make their communities better. That is who DACA recipients are.

All young people deserve the right to pursue their dreams and live in safety. We, as advocates for survivors of human trafficking and their children, support the continuation of DACA to ensure the safety and security of the families we serve.

DACA allows trafficking victims security to come forward to access justice. It allows the vulnerable family members of trafficked people much needed protection.

Congress should move to protect DACA recipients.

- Traffickers use immigration status to exploit workers. 56% of Dreamers report moving to jobs with better working conditions upon receiving DACA.¹
- Trafficking victims will be less likely to come forward to report crimes to authorities if DACA recipients are punished. These Dreamers identified themselves voluntarily, trusting that our government would not penalize them for it.²
- Without DACA, Dreamers will stop reporting wage theft and other crimes against them, leaving workplaces vulnerable to increased exploitation. Workers rights are always important; the contributions of immigrants of all backgrounds are what make us an innovative society.

Annie Wang, staff attorney in Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund's Immigrant Access to Justice program, said:

I've seen firsthand how this program has transformed the lives of my clients. Thanks to DACA these young people have been able to pursue higher education, find meaningful employment, help their families, and otherwise more fully contribute to our society.

¹<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2017/08/28/437956/daca-recipients-economic-educational-gains-continue-grow/>

²<https://www.bostonglobe.com/opinion/2017/08/31/trump-shouldn-repeal-daca/9sqljciw0UseCKGTSVCRIK/story.html>

Congress must promote a practical solution to stand by the values of this country and our commitment to the right to live free from exploitation. The DREAM Act and the American Hope Act are bipartisan measures, that mesh with practical policies already undertaken in many cities and towns, to ensure young people can pursue their dreams.

Tell your member of Congress to vote to protect Dreamers.

Founded in 2002, NYATN is comprised of organizations who provide direct legal and social services to survivors of trafficking and who promote law and policy that pragmatically works to end human trafficking.

In addition to NYATN, these organizations have signed on to support this statement:

- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Freedom Network USA
- International Institute of Buffalo
- The Legal Aid Society
- My Sisters' Place
- The Seltzer Firm, PLLC
- Sharmus Outlaw Advocacy and Rights (SOAR) Institute
- Survivor Support Services at the International Institute of Buffalo (IIB)
- Urban Justice Center
- Womankind

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