



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS BLACK AND LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

ROOM 460, STATE HOUSE

BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

TELEPHONE: (617) 722-2688

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Contact: Siby Malaba
617-722-2688

Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus Statement on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) recognizes and celebrates the contributions of all immigrants to the Commonwealth. We recognize that our state maintains a long and proud history as one that supports, values, and respects its immigrants, regardless of documentation status, and refugees escaping war and natural disasters.

We also recognize that efforts such as Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs that have provided relief for some immigrants of certain circumstances. Specifically, TPS immigration status provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot be safely returned to their home countries. Meanwhile, DACA provides an opportunity for eligible children who were brought to the U.S. without documentation to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and work permit eligibility.

The Trump Administration, in keeping its promise of radically increasing interior and exterior immigration enforcement through executive orders and other measures, has recently announced the cessation of the DACA program; with a six month period before these statuses begin to expire. Without intervention by U.S. Congress, current DACA holders will become “deportable”. In light of this action and the stated intent of the Administration regarding immigrants, we reasonably anticipate a similar rescinding of the TPS program as it comes up for renewal in the coming months.

The discontinuation of these programs will result in approximately 800,000 DACA holders re-joining the ranks of the undocumented and an additional 300,000 Salvadoran, Honduran, Nicaraguan, and Haitian TPS holders becoming at risk of deportation, some after 20 years of living in and contributing to the U.S.

It has been estimated by the conservative Cato Institute that the loss of DACA workers would cost the U.S. economy more than \$200 billion and represent a cost to the federal government of \$60 billion over 10 years. During that same period, the loss of TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, and Honduras would result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions, and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers approximately \$3.1 billion dollars.

The MBLLC recognizes that the deportation of these more than 1 million DACA and TPS holders is simply one fraction of the estimated 11 million undocumented people in this country who contribute economically to our nation. Just as important are the essential fabric, and cultural and societal wealth our immigrant community provides to our country. They enrich us with their diversity of cultures, their societal contributions, and civic participation. They are our neighbors, employees, employers, caregivers, servicemen and women, first responders, teachers, and our friends and family. To turn our backs on them through deportation is to negate the very principles of the founding of our nation and to deny the “better angels of our nature.”

Therefore, we, the members of the MBLLC, reject and denounce the Trump Administration’s rescinding of DACA and strongly urge it to not consider a similar fate for TPS. We also request that the Legislature voice

clear and bipartisan support for our immigrant neighbors in Massachusetts through a joint public action that denounces the rescinding of DACA and urges the maintenance of TPS. We would also thank the Attorney General for her show of support for our immigrant neighbors by joining Massachusetts in the lawsuit against the Administration regarding the DACA cessation, and would urge the Legislature to publicly and vocally support this action.

For more information on the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, please visit:

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