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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT: [info@cacanational.org](mailto:info@cacanational.org)**

## **Chinese American Citizens Alliance Opposes Ending of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program; Urges Congress to Protect Dreamers**

San Francisco, September 6, 2017—President Donald J. Trump announced yesterday his administration’s decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance opposes the termination of the immigration program that could impact the status of 800,000 young adults who were brought to the United States illegally as children.

The move by the Trump Administration not only casts doubts on those currently protected from possible deportation but the many more applicants bringing the total to nearly two million young people who consider the United States their only home.

“As the Nation’s oldest, continuous civil rights and social advocacy organization for American citizens of Chinese ancestry, C.A.C.A. understands the injury created by a legacy of unfair and unbalanced policies toward our immigrant population,” said Davace Chin, C.A.C.A. National President. “Through no fault of their own, these young people—the Dreamers—are being punished because of circumstances of their birth and origin. Further, we are particularly disturbed by the earlier assurances President Trump gave to these Dreamers that they need not be worried because he had a ‘big heart.’ The Chinese American Citizens Alliance strongly supports compassionate, reasonable and judicious pathways to citizenship.”

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is rooted in the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors), bipartisan legislation first introduced to Congress in 2001, which identifies steps of citizenship to young people who were brought to the United States as children without documentation. For nearly a decade, the DREAM Act struggled through congressional committee reviews and amendments and revisions. Congress failed to pass the DREAM Act in 2010 despite overwhelming support from the public and from American military leaders.

Finally in 2012, President Barack Obama announced DACA, a temporary program that permitted “Dreamers” (certain undocumented immigrants who entered the country as minors) to come forward, pass a background check, apply for work permits and most importantly, to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation.

In the announcement by the Trump Administration, new applications for legal status dated after Tuesday, September 5, 2017, will not be considered, although pending applications filed before Tuesday will continue to be processed. Individuals with a DACA permit expiring between now and March 5, 2018,



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may apply for a two-year renewal of protected status. Those applications must be submitted by October 5, 2017. And other Dreamers' protected status will end as early as March 6, 2018.

President Trump's declaration to rescind DACA now places the fate of these Dreamers in the hands of the United States Congress. C.A.C.A. implores our national representatives to take action and pass sensible immigration legislation that reflects the spirit of bipartisanship when the DREAM Act was first introduced in 2001. Congressional leadership should consider the overwhelming public support of current and future Dreamers to remain in the United States.

The Alliance's longstanding support of DACA is well-established. In recent years C.A.C.A. facilitated a Legislative Education trip to Washington, D.C. annually in May, designated as Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Representatives from among its 18 C.A.C.A. chapters/lodges nationwide visited congressional representatives on both sides of the aisle to present and advocate issues and positions on legislation and policies, including comprehensive immigration reform.

In 2015 at its 53<sup>rd</sup> National Convention held in Seattle, C.A.C.A. had passed resolution "Support Executive Action for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)," which endorsed a "sensible part of this nation's interim immigration policy until such time a more comprehensive immigration program is put into place." The aim of the resolution was to bring "these immigrants out of the shadows will enhance national security allowing the U.S. to know more accurately the people who live within its borders, and permitting these immigrants to live openly and fully participate in American society..."

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1044 Stockton St.  
San Francisco, CA.

Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.