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C.A.C.A. Greets Recent U.S. Supreme Court Decision on DACA with Optimism and Caution

San Francisco, June 24, 2020 — The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) welcomed a key United States Supreme Court ruling affording safeguards to a vulnerable community with a history of denied civil protections.

On Thursday, June 18, the Supreme Court rejected the Administration’s efforts to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, which protects undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children from deportation and allows them to work legally in the U.S. DACA was established in 2012 during the presidency of Barack Obama. The 5-4 vote on Department of Homeland Security et al v. Regents of the University of California et al emphasized that the administration failed to provide an adequate reason to justify ending the DACA program, which has nearly 650,000 recipients known as “Dreamers,” including young people from Asian countries.

It should be noted that the Court rests its arguments not on the legality of the program but on technical, procedural grounds. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the majority opinion, “We do not decide whether DACA or its rescission are sound policies,” “The wisdom ‘of those decisions’ is none of our concern.’ We address only whether the agency complied with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action.”

“This ruling from the Supreme Court means that the Dreamers now have a chance for a legal pathway towards a lawful and productive life in America,” stated C.A.C.A. National President Melanie Chan.

She noted that at the C.A.C.A. 2019 National convention, the Grand Council voted to approve a resolution in support of DACA, which stated that “we will support congressional action to pass legislation offering a permanent solution for Dreamers as part of an overall policy supporting comprehensive immigration reform that also ensures intending immigrants who have followed the lawful immigration process are not disadvantaged.”
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), Orange County (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Sacramento (CA), 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, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.