

September 7, 2017

Dear Municipal Leader:

This week's DACA announcement from the Trump Administration was devastating. As you know, over 1,200 DACA recipients live in Rhode Island and are directly affected by this action.

On the positive side, our entire Congressional delegation supports passage of the DREAM Act, which would codify the DACA program into law. Its fate in our current dysfunctional Congress remains uncertain, however. So while it is critical that Congress act to fill the calamitous void left by the repeal of President Obama's executive order, state and local officials also have an essential role to play in the meantime to protect those victimized by this inhumane action. We are writing to ask you to take on that responsibility.

We have been heartened by the many strong condemnations of the President's actions from legislators, mayors and others. **But more than condemnation is needed; now is the time for action.** In that spirit, we believe there are specific, concrete things YOU can do to help protect Rhode Island's vulnerable DACA recipients.

Specifically, you have the opportunity to protect DACA recipients in your cities and towns by passing comprehensive ordinances that would limit your cooperation and collaboration with immigration officials. In that regard, earlier this year, the ACLU of Rhode Island shared with all municipalities a model ordinance that would do just that. It would restrict municipalities – in a completely lawful manner – from cooperating with ICE in numerous circumstances that could lead to the detention and arrest of DACA recipients. You can find copies of the ordinance and explanatory materials at this link:

<http://riaclu.org/news/post/aclu-sends-model-ordinance-to-all-rhode-island-municipalities/>

The Trump Administration's actions have only exacerbated the day-to-day fear and dread that already exists among the immigrant community. Therefore, if you are as appalled as we are at the federal Administration's cruel actions against these innocent DACA recipients, we ask you to demonstrate your concern by taking the concrete steps cited above to protect them from the mean-spirited and heavy hand of the federal government.

As we have said, the time has now come for action, not just words. You have the opportunity to help, and we hope you will take advantage of it. (Since a ramp-up of ICE raids across the country began a few months ago, community organizations have also been in touch with Governor Raimondo, Attorney General Kilmartin and Chief Justice Suttell, asking them to take actions within their independent purview to protect immigrants in our state.)

Our groups look forward to hearing back from you about this and learning of your efforts to protect the state's vulnerable DACA population, and thereby keep Rhode Island a

welcoming state for the immigrants, past and present, among us. We all stand ready to assist you in promoting this important cause. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Steven Brown, Executive Director
Executive Director
American Civil Liberties Union of R.I.

Kathleen Cloutier
Executive Director
Dorcas International Institute of R.I.

Chanda Womack
Executive Director/President
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Linda Impagliazzo
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Rachel Flum
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Omar Bah
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Deborah DeBare
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Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Rev. Dr. Don Anderson
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