

# RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

*No. 391*

Approved October 3, 2017

WHEREAS, Nearly 800,000 young people who came to the United States as children have come forward, passed background checks, and received permission to live and work in the United States through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; and

WHEREAS, All DACA recipients, commonly known as “Dreamers,” came to the U.S. as children, have no criminal history, and either graduated from high school, earned a GED, or were honorably discharged from the U.S. armed forces; and

WHEREAS, According to a recent survey, 68% of DACA recipients arrived in the U.S. when they were eight years old or younger and the median age of arrival was six years old; and

WHEREAS, Thanks to DACA, these 800,000 young people have advanced their education, started businesses, served our country, and more fully established themselves as integral members of American society; and

WHEREAS, An estimated 1,200 Rhode Islanders are DACA recipients; and

WHEREAS, In August, over 100 mayors and county officials from across the U.S., including Mayor Elorza, sent a letter to President Trump supporting the continuation of DACA; and

WHEREAS, A recent Morning Consult/Politico poll found that 76% of Americans support allowing Dreamers to stay in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, Despite this, on September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017, President Trump rescinded the executive order establishing DACA, putting all 800,000 Dreamers at risk of deportation and leaving their legal status in limbo with no plan for how to move forward; and

WHEREAS, According to the Center for American Progress, ending DACA would reduce the nation’s GDP by an estimated \$460.3 billion over the next 10 years, including a reduction of more than \$61 million a year in Rhode Island alone; and

WHEREAS, According to the non-partisan Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, repealing the temporary legal status and work authorizations permitted by DACA would reduce estimated state and local revenues by nearly \$800 million; and

WHEREAS, The Director of Immigration Law and Policy Research at the Economic Policy Institute stated, “[T]he evidence is clear that DACA has positively benefited the U.S. labor market,” and described the decision to rescind DACA as, “inhumane”; and

WHEREAS, Since 73% of Dreamers have a spouse, child, or sibling who is an American citizen, deporting DACA recipients will necessarily break-up American families causing incalculable harm in communities around the nation; and

WHEREAS, It is unjust to punish individuals for entering the U.S. illegally when they had no choice or say in how they entered the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, It is cruel to deport individuals who have only ever called America "home" to countries many have no memory of, where many have no connections, family, or resources, and where many do not even speak the language; and

WHEREAS, The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, commonly known as the DREAM Act, is a bipartisan bill that would codify the DACA program into federal law, avoiding the chaos, confusion, and harm caused by the rescinding of the DACA executive order; and

WHEREAS, As the elected representatives of the people of Providence, the Providence City Council has a moral obligation to speak out against unjust policies and to support measures that would ameliorate those injustices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council of the City of Providence does hereby support DACA recipients and the continuation of the DACA program, and urges the United States Congress pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That, upon passage, copies of this resolution be sent to the offices of Senator Jack Reed, Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman David Cicilline, and Congressman James Langevin.

**IN CITY COUNCIL**

SEP 26 2017

**READ AND PASSED**

*Sabrina Mats*  
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ACTING PRES.

*Lori L. Hynes*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK

**I HEREBY APPROVE.**

*S.S.*  
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Mayor

Date: 10/3/17