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## **OVER 90 NGOS RELEASE LETTER URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO PROTECT DACA-ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS THROUGH DEFERRED ENFORCED DEPARTURE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**WASHINGTON, DC**—Today, 94 organizations delivered a [letter](#) to President Biden urging him to grant protection to Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, eligible individuals and recipients through Deferred Enforced Departure, or DED, in the event of an adverse judicial decision that would terminate DACA protections. This temporary yet renewable protection would provide employment authorization and protection from deportation for approximately 1.5 million young people.

While the signatories “remain adamant that Congress act to provide permanent relief for DACA-eligible individuals,” they urge President Biden to, “. . . use all available authorities to protect this population, of which DED is but one.”

“With DACA facing considerable judicial opposition, DED would provide an independent ground of protection for these individuals and forestall the negative foreign policy consequences of ending DACA,” **the signatories write**. “The threat of removal for DACA-eligible individuals would imperil the productive bilateral relationships required to successfully execute your Administration’s strategy to address the root causes of Central American migration. Additionally, it would harm efforts to attract and retain international students, one of our nation’s “unique strategic advantages”... failure to protect DACA students will likely accelerate the trend of international students investing their time and talents elsewhere.”

The letter’s signatories are 94 international, national, state, and local faith-based and human rights organizations, including American Friends Service Committee, Alianza Americas, Church World Service, African Communities Together, Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), National Education Association, National Korean Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC), National Partnership for New Americans, Presidents’ Alliance on Higher

Education and Immigration, and Refugee Congress. The complete letter and list of signatories is available [here](#).

“We urge the Biden administration to take this step to protect DACA recipients in the event that DACA protections are interrupted,” said **Anna Gallagher, Executive Director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**. “We continue to stress the human consequences of the threat to the DACA program: DACA recipients are our neighbors, friends, family members and coworkers. They are vital members of our communities. Most importantly, as people of faith, we believe they are our brothers and sisters. They deserve to live without fear of deportation in the only place they call home. We urge President Biden to grant DED as a stop-gap measure to protect DACA recipients while long-term solutions are found.”

“DACA is not only a promise to be kept for the great many among us in need of protection, but also the first step in honoring our nation's promise as a permanent place of welcome. If this vital safeguard is terminated, roughly 1.5 million of our young neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and leaders could be torn from their families and deported to countries most have never known,” said **Danilo Zak, Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy at CWS**. “With DACA vulnerable to the whims of a misguided court decision, President Biden needs to reassure our communities that its protections will remain in place. Deferred Enforced Departure would help put DACA recipients calling the United States home at ease, we urge him to take action now. Ultimately, today is about calling on the administration to protect what’s in place, but a true path to citizenship is what this vulnerable population needs and deserves. Bold leadership demands more than stopgaps or temporary solutions vulnerable to political winds or judicial caprice, it demands securing permanence and life-long security for those we call our neighbors and friends.”

**Diego Sánchez, Director of Policy and Strategy for the Presidents’ Alliance on Immigration and Higher Education**, said, “Without action from Congress and with DACA hanging by a thread, we are running out of time to keep our promises to those who arrived here as children. As leaders in higher education, we know the opportunity DACA has represented to thousands of students and scholars to pursue a better future for over a decade. We also know that DACA is not enough. While we continue to call for a bipartisan path to citizenship for Dreamers, both with and without DACA, in the event of a negative court ruling the administration must be ready to use all available tools to protect them in the meantime—including Deferred Enforced Departure.”

**Background:** Judge Hanen’s upcoming decision in April or May will trigger appeals that, at the earliest, could result in a Supreme Court decision on DACA by June 2024. President Biden will have to find a way to protect DACA-eligible individuals and recipients from removal and loss of employment authorization should the Supreme Court rule against DACA. With this in mind, the #DED4DACA campaign and the letter’s signatories urge the White House to consider using DED to protect the 1.5 million young people that call the United States home.

The #DED4DACA Campaign previously released a [letter from law professors](#) supporting the use of DED for DACA-eligible individuals and a report, [Protecting United States Foreign Policy](#)

[Interests Through Deferred Enforced Departure for DACA-Eligible Individuals](#). Answers to frequently asked questions about the campaign are available [here](#). To learn more, please visit [www.masadc.com/ded4daca](http://www.masadc.com/ded4daca).

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*We firmly believe that immigrants are an essential part of the fabric of our nation.*