

**STATEMENT: July 16, 2021, ruling on DACA**

We are deeply disappointed that a Federal District Court Judge in Texas declared the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program unlawful and imposed new limitations. Effective immediately, the court's decision prohibits United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) from approving any new DACA applications. Individuals currently in the program will keep their protections, and pending renewal applications will be processed normally.

As advocates for victims of crime, we believe violence of any kind is unacceptable and have an obligation to call out the violent and cruel behavior of individuals and systems against Black, Brown and historically marginalized people across Iowa and the nation. This includes roadblocks to a pathway to citizenship for the undocumented community.

Established in 2012 by former President Barack Obama, DACA allows teens over 16 and adults younger than 30 who were brought to the U.S. when they were children to work and study without fear of deportation. Since then, DACA has brought critical benefits to Iowa, where more than 5,500 DREAMERS have been able to pursue degrees in higher education and employment opportunities that allow local communities and economies to thrive. Restrictions to DACA directly impact opportunities for growth and prosperity across Iowa and the U.S., and that is harmful to *everyone*.

We call on all Iowans, organizations, and congressional leaders to support DREAMERS, protect DACA and advocate for pathway to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented individuals in this country. It is imperative that we use our collective strength to advocate for the development of programs and policies that protect *everyone*.