

October 18, 2022

We, the trustees of Metropolitan State University of Denver (“MSU Denver”), condemn the recent decision of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in [State of Texas vs. the United States](#), which agreed with a [District Court ruling](#) that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) policy is unlawful. As the remanding of the case back to the lower court effectively spells the end of the program, we call on our Congressional representatives to immediately push for legislation to address the harm this decision will cause to Dreamers and our country.

MSU Denver has long been a leader in providing academic pathways for Dreamers, immigrants brought to the United States as children. In 2012, MSU Denver became the first university in Colorado and among the first in the nation to provide in-state tuition for undocumented students, just before the creation of DACA. For a decade, the University has educated more than 400 undocumented students annually, and many have now graduated, begun careers, started families and become productive members of the workforce and integral parts of Colorado communities. We continue to stand by all our students, faculty, staff and community members who are impacted by this decision.

Unlike the Texas court, which indicated that the mere presence of Dreamers causes harm, we believe that Dreamers, who are here because their families sought a safe home, are assets to our country and our communities. They contribute to our society as teachers, doctors, engineers and so many more professions that are essential to our communities and our economy. DACA recipients pay [\\$9.5 billion in federal, state and local taxes annually](#) and make contributions to Social Security and Medicare. Removing unauthorized immigrant workers from Colorado could [reduce the state’s annual GDP by \\$6.1 billion](#), compounding the labor shortage with the largest reductions in the agriculture, construction and hospitality industries.

While ending DACA will be disastrous for recipients and our economy, halting new DACA applications and not updating the eligibility criteria has already harmed young Dreamers. This year, [about 100,000 undocumented young people](#) will graduate from U.S. high schools, only [one-quarter](#) of whom are estimated to be eligible for DACA. Having DACA [significantly increases](#) high school attendance and graduation rates, reducing the gap in attendance and graduation by 40% between citizen and non-citizen immigrants.

The 5th Circuit decision is devastating all the way around. If the lower court decisions are upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, 700,000 tax-paying Dreamers (including 13,000 in Colorado) who have lived in the U.S. for 22 years on average will lose the ability to work and face deportation. This will throw their lives into chaos and will be economically devastating in a time when workers are already scarce.

Congress needs to solve this through legislation that legalizes the presence of Dreamers in this country and provides a path to citizenship. Act now before this Congress adjourns sine die. We call on our Congressional delegates to introduce and work to pass legislation that permanently resolves the status of Dreamers, for the sake of these valued immigrant and our country.



Russell Noles, Chair
Metropolitan State University of Denver Board of Trustees



Kristin Hultquist, Vice Chair
Metropolitan State University of Denver Board of Trustees

