

California Psychological Association Stands in Support of DACA

September 11, 2017

Guided by our mission statement to “advocate for the health and welfare of all Californians,” the California Psychological Association recognizes and acknowledges that approximately one quarter (220,000) of all DACA recipients reside in our beautiful state and are an integral part of the economic, academic, cultural, and social fabric of our communities. These undocumented youth, who could qualify for a federal DREAM Act if it was passed, are sometimes referred to as DREAMers. They are students, employees in many sectors of our economy, colleagues and neighbors. We stand in complete support of their rights as California residents to a fair and humane process in which their positive contributions are recognized and valued, not diminished and destroyed.

It is well researched and documented that the social, economic and psychological impact of deportation, or the stress of a threat of deportation, can have devastating effects on the mental well-being of children and adults. Thus, we are gravely concerned about the traumatic and psychological harm that will result from the actions of the Trump administration to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals without also proposing a pathway to US citizenship for these individuals. We are concerned about the impact on our college campuses across the state as well as the economic impact the removal of the program will have on our state.

We, the California Psychological Association, restate our commitment toward the health and well-being of all Californians and offer our support to the community, our CPA members, and other allied health professionals in assisting young adults across our state affected by the recent actions of the Trump administration. Our Immigration Task Force is currently compiling resources both for undocumented immigrants and for psychologists who will undoubtedly encounter these individuals and families in their practice, and we will make these widely available once they are complete.

The CPA Board of Directors