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The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia Issues Statement on the President's DACA Announcement

(Washington, DC – September 6, 2017) – The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia (HBA-DC) stands in opposition to the President’s decision to terminate Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This decision does our nation a great disservice and needlessly casts a cloud on the futures of hundreds of thousands of productive Americans. Since 2012, nearly 800,000 young people have been given the opportunity to step out of the shadows and to give back to the United States - the country they call home. More than 40,000 DACA recipients reside in the greater Washington area. These youths, known as DREAMers, were brought here as children and, for most, the United States is the only home they know. By the terms of DACA, these DREAMers are in school, have graduated, or are members of the U.S. Armed Forces. DACA has given these youths the ability to contribute to their schools, their communities, the economy, and this great country without fear of deportation. Ending DACA revives the specter of deportation for these young people and puts entire communities at risk.

The HBA-DC calls on Congress to, at the very least, codify DACA into law until it can pass comprehensive immigration reform. In the past, the HBA-DC has urged Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to pass the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (“DREAM”) Act, the Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (“BRIDGE”) Act, and others. House Speaker Paul Ryan responded to the President’s DACA announcement by stating, “[I]t is my hope that the House and Senate, with the president's leadership, will be able to find consensus on a permanent legislative solution that includes ensuring that those who have done nothing wrong can still contribute as a valued part of this great country.” HBA-DC strongly urges Congress to do so.

DREAMers have held up their end of the bargain. They are exemplary youth, contributing to their communities and excelling. The HBA-DC is proud to have a number of DREAMers in our membership. These members are our colleagues in the practice of law and our classmates in law school. They are part of *nuestra familia*. The HBA-DC unequivocally stands with them and hopes that the uncertainty created by the President’s decision is abated by swift Congressional action.

About the HBA-DC

The Hispanic Bar Association of the District of Columbia is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, voluntary legal association representing the interests of Hispanic attorneys, judges, law professors, law students, and legal professionals within the greater Washington, D.C. area. Its mission is promoting the professional development of Hispanic lawyers and law students; promoting equal justice and opportunities for all Hispanics; and promoting the appointment of Hispanics to leadership positions in Federal, state, and local governments, in the judiciary, and in other leadership positions. For more information visit <http://www.hbadc.org>.