



Commissioner Nick Fish
City of Portland

DATE: October 8, 2017

TO: Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly
Auditor Mary Hull Caballero

FROM: Mariana Garcia Medina

SUBJECT: DACA Resolution Testimony

Mayor, Commissioners, thank you for sponsoring this resolution. My name is Mariana and I am a new staffer for Commissioner Nick Fish, a recent graduate and DACA recipient, who had the opportunity to work on this resolution.

On June 15, 2012, my dad called me in tears and full of excitement to tell me President Obama was announcing on live television his executive action of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. President Obama did this following the failure of the DREAM Act of 2010. DACA was meant to be a temporary measure until Congress could pass a permanent solution for dreamers. It gave hope and some relief to the dreamers that had been continuously fighting for the DREAM Act.

DACA does not grant a pathway to citizenship. It offers protection from deportation and a work permit every two years. DACA recipients have to renew their DACA every two years, pay an application fee of \$495, and their legal expenses.

On September 5th, 2017 my dad called me, this time with sadness and a hopeless tone. The repeal of DACA was as if the little bit of hope and security we were given was ripped away. It was a hard reminder of the uncertainty of my future and it revived anxiety and fear for my family and me.

This resolution asks for the program to continue and urges congress to pass the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act would grant the same privileges as DACA but would offer a pathway to citizenship. It will also allow more dreamers to benefit from it since the requirements for DACA

were much narrower and dreamers were left out because of their age, year of entrance in the U.S, as well as many who did not apply because of fear to give their information to the government for a program that could be taken away at any time. A fear many dreamers had but still took the risk, came out of the shadows, and trusted the government. The DREAM Act will allow many dreamers, like me, to have that security to stay in their home and be able to fulfill our aspirations and dreams.

The DREAM Act would be one step forward for the immigration movement, however it is important to not forget about all 11 million undocumented immigrants who are also part of our community. Many who are parents of dreamers, such as mine, and in truth are the original dreamers.

Again, thank you. I urge you all to pass this resolution and hope to see continued support and efforts from council for the immigrant community.