

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXTENSION OF THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) PROGRAM; PERMANENT LEGAL STATUS FOR DREAMERS; AND URGING UTAH'S ENTIRE CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO JOIN SENATOR ORRIN HATCH (R- UTAH) IN SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF PERMANENT DREAM ACT LEGISLATION WITHIN SIX MONTHS

WHEREAS, there could be no higher priority than ensuring the hopes and dreams of our young people; and,

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before they turned 16 and has benefitted nearly 742,000 undocumented youth since it began in 2012; and,

WHEREAS, the ability for youth to live and work in their communities without fear of deportation is the foundation of sound, responsible immigration policy; and,

WHEREAS, with work authorization and without the fear of deportation, these young people have been able to participate in and contribute to our country, our cities and our economies; and,

WHEREAS, DACA is good for our nation's economy with eighty-seven percent of DACA recipients employed by American businesses and six percent of DACA recipients having started their own businesses, leading to higher wages and better economic outcomes; and,

WHEREAS, DACA recipients contribute 15.3 percent of their wages to taxes, which fund Social Security and Medicare, and DACA recipients are investing in assets like houses, and starting new businesses, bringing significant tax revenue to cities and states; and,

WHEREAS, ending this program would leave 742,000 young people who now call this nation home unsure of their legal status and would lead to the loss of .9 billion in tax contributions over the next four years, the loss of at least 3.4 billion from the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade; and,

WHEREAS, according to data reported by the Deseret News on September 5, 2017, Utah has an estimated 9,562 DACA recipients and 8,319 DACA workers. In total, the state stands to lose \$469,159,530 in GDP if the DACA is not reinstated. DACA recipients, some of whom work in, for and/or reside in Park City, positively contribute to our families, economy, schools and community; and,

WHEREAS, the Armed Forces rely on DACA applicants to serve through Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest (MAVNI), which enlists individuals who are fluent in critical languages or possess medical professional skills essential to the defense of our nation; and,

WHEREAS, DACA helps further domestic public safety — ninety percent of DACA recipients obtained a driver's license or state identification card, and 54 percent purchased cars after getting DACA, resulting in more insured and licensed drivers on American streets; and,

WHEREAS, the young people who entered this country before they were 16 who benefit from DACA, have significant bipartisan support, especially here in Utah where Senator Hatch sponsored the first DREAM ACT legislation, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, also known as the Student Adjustment Act of 2001; and,

WHEREAS, the threatening rhetoric being used by the current administration is causing uncertainty and fear that threatens the future of these young people who have come forward and entrusted the government with their information; and,

WHEREAS, we encourage the President to demonstrate his commitment to the American economy and the ideals of our nation by continuing DACA until Congress modernizes our immigration system and provides a more permanent form of relief for these individuals; and,

WHEREAS, Utah has a long and proud history of support for refugee and immigration policies which balance the rule of law with humanitarian obligations of just enforcement, particularly for children, such as the Utah Compact and 2002 Utah Legislature House Bill 144, which allows undocumented students to qualify for resident tuition rates at Utah's public colleges and universities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL, SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH:

Section 1. Since our community has historically come together in the face of great challenges, we call upon all governmental, business and nonprofit agencies and institutions in Summit County to come together to urge the Trump Administration to keep the DACA program in place, ensuring protection of these young people.

Section 2. Summit County and its community partners call upon the Utah congressional delegation to support immediate federal legislation which would continue the DACA program.

Section 3. The County Council hereby requests immediate action by Congress and the President to permanently address the legal status of DREAMERS in such a way as to allow them a path to permanent United States citizenship.

Section 4. The County Council hereby authorizes the County Manager to undertake any and all action consistent with the intent of this Resolution to proactively support and encourage the adoption of federal legislation requested herein.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of September, 2017.

SUMMIT COUNTY COUNCIL
SUMMIT COUNTY, UTAH

ATTEST:

Christopher F. Robinson
Chair

Kent Jones
County Clerk