



For Immediate Release

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August 29, 2017

CLLARO Urges Elected Officials to Preserve DACA Protections Through Legislation

DENVER – One of the nation’s oldest Latino civil rights organizations is urging Colorado’s elected representatives to support bills in Congress protecting undocumented young adults brought to the U.S. as young children. “These DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients are not criminals” says Alexandra Alonso, executive director of the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy, and Research Organization (CLLARO). “They didn’t choose to come to the U.S., but they did grow up here and they call the United States home. Deporting DACA recipients to countries they hardly know not only puts them in danger, it also hurts the U.S. economy. These U.S.-educated young adults include some of the best and brightest in our nation. Thanks to DACA, many participants have graduated from college or advanced training, have been hired by business and industry, and are making major contributions to U.S. economic growth. Locally, they are teachers, entrepreneurs, engineers and they are part of the next generation of diverse leaders in our state.”

During his election campaign, President Donald Trump called for an end to the DACA program initiative established by way of an executive order five years ago by President Obama. He changed his position after becoming President, pledging to continue the DACA program for the “absolutely incredible kids” who deserve protection. However, President Trump is reportedly under political pressure from his base, a group of state attorneys general and some White House advisors to end DACA.

CLLARO is urging bipartisan action in Congress to pass a law to keep the DACA program in place. “More than out of five Coloradans are Latino, and a large majority of Latinos are U.S. citizens,” said Alonso. “Latino voters are outraged by calls to deport friends and neighbors we grew up with. All American communities and the U.S. economy stand to lose the most from inaction on this issue.” CLLARO is calling for U.S. Senator Cory Gardner, Representative Mike Coffman, and all other members of Colorado’s Congressional delegation to support the bills now pending in both the House and the Senate.

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*The **Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy & Research Organization (CLLARO)** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization committed since 1964 to realizing a Colorado where Latinos achieve their fullest potential. We do this by providing leadership development programming and trusted data and research on the state of Latinos in Colorado, especially in the areas of health, education, and aging. For more information, please visit www.cllarocolorado.org.*