



CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

IMMIGRANT RIGHTS COMMISSION

Edwin M. Lee, Mayor
Naomi Kelly, City Administrator

Commissioners:

Celine Kennelly, *Chair*
Haregu Gaime, *Vice Chair*

Almudena Bernabeu
Elahe Enssani
Felix Fuentes
Florence Kong
Melba Maldonado
Toye Moses
Mario Paz
Leah Chen Price
Andrei Romanenko

Executive Director:
Adrienne Pon

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission Expresses Disappointment with the Supreme Court's Split 4-4 Decision in *United States v. Texas*

With utmost disappointment, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission laments today's split 4-4 decision by the Supreme Court in *United States v. Texas*, which indicates a continued hold on President Obama's Executive Actions on Immigration.

Expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, (expanded DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) would have protected millions— including an estimated 1.5 million in California and approximately 14,000 in the City & County of San Francisco alone—from deportation and would have provided them with the ability to work legally in the United States.

Although this is a temporary set-back, the Immigrant Rights Commission will continue to fight together with San Francisco's dedicated non-profits, regional and national allies for comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, ensures a path to citizenship, and preserves basic human rights.

"This ruling needs to be viewed as what it really is – an inability by the Supreme Court to make a decision on the issue – in the words of President Obama, this ruling is not a value statement for the United States. The unwillingness by Congress to consider President Obama's Supreme Court nominee is now having a catastrophic unintended impact." said Celine Kennelly, Chair of the Immigrant Rights Commission.

"We stand with the majority of Americans who believe that we are a nation of immigrants and call on Congress to fix our broken immigration system and pass comprehensive immigration reform," added Kennelly.

For all persons affected by this decision, we want to reiterate that today's decision does not affect the original Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that was launched in 2012. Eligible applicants should continue to apply for and renew DACA.

An estimated 4,000 San Francisco residents were eligible for the original DACA program, and the City & County of San Francisco continues to assist those that live, work and/or go to school in San Francisco with DACA applications. The Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs (OCEIA) administers the Deferred Action San Francisco grant program, which funds approximately 15 San Francisco

non-profits to provide free legal assistance, education and outreach about DACA, along with application fee assistance. For more information on these efforts visit www.dacasf.com.

Although DAPA and expanded DACA remain on hold, the Immigrant Rights Commission encourages immigrant families take a number of steps to prepare and protect themselves, including: obtaining screening from qualified legal service providers to check for original DACA eligibility and other immigration relief options; applying for driver's licenses under California's AB60; enrolling children in Medi-Cal; applying for citizenship if eligible; and registering to vote if they are U.S. Citizens.

The Immigrant Rights Commission will continue to serve as the voice for San Francisco's immigrants in matters of immigration reform and local issues affecting our community.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commission,



Celine Kennelly, Chair



Haregu Gaime, Vice Chair

The Immigrant Rights Commission is an appointed 15-member body that informs and advises the Mayor, Board of Supervisors and city officials on the wellbeing and integration of immigrants in San Francisco. Members of the Commission must be citizens of the United States and at least eight members must be immigrants. For more information on the IRC, contact the Office of Civic Engagement & Immigrant Affairs at civic.engagement@sfgov.org.