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AZ and National Child Health Experts File Amicus Brief in Supreme Court Describing Traumatic Impact of DACA Rescission on Recipients' Children

Cancelling DACA would harm 250,000 children in U.S., including 12,200 in Arizona

Washington, DC - At least [a quarter of a million young children](#)—including **12,200 in Arizona**—would be harmed developmentally, psychologically, and economically by the cancellation of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). The Trump administration failed to consider their interests when repealing the program in 2017.

On Friday, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AZAAP) and Children's Action Alliance (CAA) joined nearly three dozen other organizations and leaders in filing an [amicus brief](#) (appendix [here](#)) with the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the court to consider the impact of rescinding DACA on beneficiaries' children, who are U.S. citizens. Oral arguments are scheduled for November 12, 2019.

The DACA case affects children and families in every state, but Arizona is home to one of the largest numbers. More quotes from national and state leaders can be found [here](#).

As the brief [explains](#), society has a moral imperative to protect children from harm; this imperative is recognized in numerous laws and policies, including the Family First Prevention Services Act of 2018. Failing to consider the needs of these children puts their futures in jeopardy, to the obvious detriment of the communities in which they live.

The "friend of the court" brief states: "The imminent threat of losing DACA protection places children at risk of losing parental nurturance, as well losing income, food security, housing, access to health care, educational opportunities, and the sense of safety and security that is the foundation of healthy child development."

Said **Mary Ellen Rimsza, MD, FAAP, Advocacy Chair for the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics**: "Arizona's pediatricians are joining this legal brief because DACA families and their young children are suffering physically and emotionally over fears of family separation. Over 12,000 Arizona children who are U.S. citizens could lose their parents if DACA protections end. These children deserve to live in a safe and nurturing home but this is not possible when their parents are under the constant threat of deportation."

Siman Qasim, President and CEO of Children’s Action Alliance, said: “DACA children brought here by their parents years ago are now adults. They are mothers and fathers of young children; teachers, engineers, medical personnel, business owners and vital contributors to our state and national economy. They help make up the rich fabric of our diverse community. Rescinding DACA will separate American children from their parents, plunge too many families’ lives into chaos and inflict irreversible harm on children.”

The brief was co-authored by Persyn Law & Policy and Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP for the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Center for Law and Social Policy, and other children’s advocacy organizations, medical professionals, and child development experts.

Kyle Yasuda, MD, FAAP and President of the American Academy of Pediatrics said: “Rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy would have multi-generational health consequences; it not only impacts the DACA recipients themselves, but also their children. When children live in fear of their family being separated, it can have detrimental effects on their health and development, both in the short- and long-term. As pediatricians, we know children fare best when they can grow up in supportive families and thrive.”

Olivia Golden, Executive Director of the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), said: “CLASP recognizes the critical role the DACA program has played in pulling entire families out of poverty and promoting the healthy development of children. We also know from our 2018 research report that harmful immigration policies—like the Administration’s decision to terminate the DACA program—are subjecting young children to fear, instability, and reduced access to critical health and nutrition supports. We urge the Supreme Court to consider what’s at stake for hundreds of thousands of our youngest citizens and the future of our country should the DACA program be rescinded.”

“The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children gratefully joins many of this nation’s leading child advocacy organizations in opposing the needless termination of DACA, a critically important protection afforded to persons who arrived in the United States as children and have made lives and families here in the only home they know. The trauma that is being inflicted on the children of DACA recipients by even the threat of their parents’ deportation is cruel and serves no meaningful public policy purpose. Over time, these children and the communities in which they live will suffer greatly from this pointless infliction of harm,” stated **David Corwin, President of the APSAC Board; Janet Rosenzweig, Executive Director; and Frank Vandervort, Chair of the Amicus Committee.**

Read the amicus brief filed in *United States Department of Homeland Security v. Regents of the University of California*; *Donald J. Trump, President of the United States v. National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*; and *Kirsten M. Nielsen,*

Secretary of Homeland Security v. Martin Jonathan Batalla Vidal [consolidated cases] [here](#), with [appendix](#).

Additional data about the economic contributions and family ties of DACA beneficiaries in Arizona can be found [here](#).

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