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Contact: Lynn Tramonte (latramonte@gmail.com/202-255-0551) OR Tom Salyers (tsalyers@clasp.org/202-906-8002)

CA 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 72,600 in California

Washington, DC - At least a [quarter of a million young children](#)—including **72,600 in California**—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 American Academy of Pediatrics, California; Children Now; and The Children's Partnership (TCP) joined nearly three dozen 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 California is home to the largest number in the nation. 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 Yasuko Fukuda, MD, FAAP, Chair of American Academy of Pediatrics, California: "For over 72,000 children of DACA recipients living in California, the threat of the loss of their parents creates significant and ongoing traumatic stress with long-term negative consequences for their health and well-being. 5,000 California Pediatricians across our state stand with our patients, DACA recipients and their children, in demanding that the government protect the DACA program and keep these families together."

Children Now President Ted Lempert stated: "More than 72,000 children in California call a DACA recipient mom or dad. The fear and uncertainty created among these families due to the repeal of the program had a tremendous effect on the health and well-being of children. Rescinding DACA protections not only means taking away parents' abilities to work and support their children, but also makes these families vulnerable to detention or deportation that could separate parents from their children. Keeping DACA protections in place is vital to the futures of DACA recipients and their families."

Said **Mayra E. Alvarez, MHA, President of The Children's Partnership**: "Roughly a quarter of all DACA recipients reside in California, as do 72,600 children of parents with DACA. As advocates for children, The Children's Partnership knows policy extends far beyond its intended recipients. Efforts to eliminate DACA, together with the Administration's other policies and rhetoric, is causing fear and panic in communities – harming children's healthy development. Programs like DACA will help ensure the wellbeing of thousands of children and ensure a stronger future for the entire state and nation."

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 California can be found [here](#).

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