



## **MSBA Statement on DACA Repeal**

**September 15, 2017**

In light of the announcement that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program will be ended in six months, the Minnesota State Bar Association urges Congress to act quickly to pass legislation that provides a fair, orderly and safe way ahead for the young people affected by this change. The announced suspension of the DACA program without a ready legislative solution threatens the future of thousands of deserving people to pursue their dreams, and places them in danger of deportation. It also threatens our country's access to a wealth of human potential.

The MSBA believes immigration reform should include a path to lawful permanent residency or U.S. citizenship for undocumented persons who entered the United States as minors and have developed significant ties to the United States while displaying good moral character and passing security screening.

Frequently referred to as Dreamers, the more than 800,000 people who entered the DACA program, including over 6,000 in the State of Minnesota, have significantly contributed to our country both economically and through industry innovation. Indeed, an open letter signed by hundreds of the nation's top business leaders pointed out that Dreamers contribute \$460.3 billion to the national gross domestic product and \$24.6 billion in Social Security and Medicare tax contributions.

In addition to the economic reasons, the humanitarian motivation for the DACA program is compelling. Dreamers came to this country as children and have embraced this country as their home. To send them back to a foreign land that many do not even remember would be inconsistent with the values on which America was founded.