

Research Center for the Americas
University of California, Santa Cruz
Statement on the U.S. Supreme Court's June 18, 2020 DACA Decision

On Juneteenth, the oldest commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States, we stand in solidarity with anti-racist activism, the struggles against unjust systems, and the promise of freedom and liberation from oppression.

We welcome [the 5 to 4 decision by the U.S. Supreme Court](#) that rejects the current administration's effort to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. President Barack Obama signed the DACA executive order in 2012 when the Republican-controlled Senate, led by Senator Mitch McConnell, curtailed the possibility of significant immigration reform. Former Attorney General Jeff Sessions and White House senior advisor Stephen Miller championed efforts by the Trump Administration to weaken DACA with the goal of ending the program and advancing their dangerous and toxic anti-immigrant ideology of white supremacy.

Writing for the majority, Supreme Court Chief Justice Roberts explained that the premise for their decision was a technicality: the Department of Homeland Security [DHS] failed to ["comply with the procedural requirement that it provide a reasoned explanation for its action"](#) of rescinding DACA. Importantly, Supreme Court Justice [Sonia Sotomayor's opinion](#) brings to light concerns that the majority "minimiz[ed] the disproportionate impact of the rescission decision on Latinos." She warns, "the abrupt change in position [by DHS] plausibly suggests that something other than questions about the legality of DACA motivated the rescission decision," especially in light of disparaging comments made during the presidential campaign that "according to respondents, were an animating force behind the rescission of DACA."

As faculty of the University of California, we have seen firsthand the duress this administration's unbounded cruelty has caused our students. We stand with our DACA students and colleagues and the millions of other undocumented people who fall outside of DACA eligibility and also deserve protection, safety, and opportunity in this country. We know our students deserve better than DACA and yet, we are relieved to know that many undocumented students whom we mentor and teach are safe for now.

Along with millions of people in this country, we support humane immigration policies informed by an understanding that the United States is a beneficiary of immigrant labor - from [healthcare](#) to [food production](#) to [Silicon Valley](#). **Permanent solutions that underscore our interconnected and interdependent realities and the human rights of immigrants are the only way forward. ¡ADELANTE!**



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