



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN PHIL MENDELSON ON TRUMP'S DECISION  
TO END DACA**

**Washington, D.C.** – The President's plan to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program is disappointing, troubling, and un-American. This program has made it possible for hundreds of thousands of undocumented people to remain here and follow their dreams. These are children and young adults who came here undocumented but not of their own choosing, and who have no "home" to return to because America is the only home they know. To end or even delay DACA would be a disgrace.

My United States is proud of its immigrant heritage and embraces diversity. It is inhumane to deport, or even create the fear of deportation in young immigrants who have no roots elsewhere.

Here in the District, we are proud of our immigrant population, and it remains our policy to provide an opportunity for *all* people to live and work here happily. Most recently, the Council and Mayor enacted the UDC DREAM Amendment Act of 2016. This allows individuals, regardless of immigration status, to pay in-state tuition at the University of the District of Columbia and to receive financial aid. Earlier laws enacted by the Council and Mayor include: the Language Access Act of 2004 to require government agencies to provide services in multiple languages; the Immigration Detainer Compliance Amendment Act of 2012, which limits the circumstances under which the District will comply with an immigration detainer request from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and the Driver's Safety Amendment Act of 2013 to allow for the issuance of drivers' licenses to residents who cannot establish legal presence in the United States.

Approval of this hate-based campaign promise by the President would be a giant step backward for our country and our society.