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Resolution against the Executive Decision to End DACA

(This resolution was unanimously adopted by the DSC Plenary at its September 15th, 2017 meeting.)

Plenary Whereas, the Doctoral Students' Council (DSC) comprises representatives from doctoral and master's programs at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY); and

Executive Committee Whereas, the DSC advocates for over 3,500 students at the Graduate Center in their roles as students, teachers, workers, family members, New Yorkers, activists, and academics; and

Steering Committee Whereas, the DSC shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

Constitution and Bylaws

Whereas, the DSC shares CUNY's historic mission of providing access to higher education to low-income communities and communities of color in New York City and across the nation; and

Grants

Health & Wellness

Outreach

Student Services

USS Advisory Committee

Governance Task Force

Student Tech Fee

Whereas, the earlier Executive Order 13768, titled "Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States" and issued on January 25th, 2017, endangers undocumented immigrants by implying they are more prone to criminality (via the establishment of VOICE, or Victims of Immigrant Crime Engagement, Office), by prioritizing the removal of any undocumented immigrant who has committed any "chargeable offense," and by increasing the number of ICE agents and the use of state and local police in enforcing immigration law¹; and

Whereas, the U.S.A. has a longstanding history of upholding discrimination through its former and current immigration laws and policies; and

Whereas, the recent presidential pardon of Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio, whose office violated the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments and Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act through racial profiling², is one of the many signs of this administration's commitment to the enforcement of white supremacy; and

Whereas, over 800,000 young people are currently studying and working in the United States under the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program³, many of them in the CUNY system, who have long been in a precarious position with regard to their immigration status and who are now at greater risk for sudden deportation⁴;

Whereas, DACA has been regarded as a progressive legal action to protect children who immigrate to the U.S.A. with their families, due in part to economic, political, and other factors that are often a consequence of global racial-capitalism and uneven power relations between the U.S.A. and other nations; and

¹<https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/immigration-interior-enforcement-executive-order>

²<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-intervenes-private-discriminatory-policing-lawsuit-against-maricopa-county>

³<https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-studies/immigration-forms-data/data-set-form-i-821d-deferred-action-childhood-arrivals>

⁴<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/07/21/nyregion/haiti-immigrants-trump.html?mcubz=0>

Whereas, the decision to rescind DACA will largely affect the legal status of people who identify as Hispanic or Latino, and is therefore motivated by racial animus⁵; and

Whereas, childhood arrivals have come to view this country as their home, and deportation would likely result in the loss of income, property, and other material and immaterial assets, psychological pain, and violent upheaval of communities and families; and

Whereas, many other academic bodies around the U.S.A., including the Rutgers AAUP-AFT Executive Council⁶, The University of Pittsburgh Student Government Board⁷, The Metro Community College board⁸, Peralta Community College Board of Trustees⁹, University of Michigan Central Student Government¹⁰, Florida Atlantic University Faculty Senate¹¹, Pennsylvania State University Undergraduate Association¹², and The University of Kansas Student Senate¹³ have passed similar resolutions in support of DACA and against this inhumane decision; therefore let it be

RESOLVED, that the DSC recognizes that geopolitical borders are often drawn and re-drawn arbitrarily in the effort to maintain political power and rejects any narrative that creates good-immigrant/bad-immigrant binaries and that demonizes the families of DACA recipients; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the DSC will continue to advocate on behalf of students regardless of immigration status through organizing workshops; distributing resources and services directly to students; providing spaces for students to gather and organize; and holding administrators accountable; and, be it still further

RESOLVED, that the DSC calls upon members of New York State Senate, other state legislatures, Congress, and other elected officials, to proceed with compassion and moral responsibility by passing meaningful immigration reform in the vein of the Dream Act in light of discriminatory immigration, detention, and deportation policies, in addition to the decision to rescind DACA; and, be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that the DSC calls upon the Graduate Center and CUNY administration to pledge specific resources and protections to all those in the Graduate Center and CUNY community who are affected by the most recent executive decision and to strengthen its support of undocumented students.

⁵<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2015/07/09/117054/results-from-a-nationwide-survey-of-daca-recipients-illustrate-the-programs-impact/>

⁶<http://rutgersaaup.org/node/1060>

⁷<https://pittnews.com/article/122248/top-stories/sgb-pledges-support-for-daca-calls-for-state-budget-approval/>

⁸http://www.omaha.com/news/education/metro-community-college-board-approves-resolution-supporting-daca-passes-annual/article_8b1a6182-9827-11e7-ae91-bb6ae4ceb2a1.html

⁹<http://web.peralta.edu/staff-development/files/2015/10/PCCD-Reso-Signed.pdf>

¹⁰<https://csg.umich.edu/2016/12/08/in-support-of-daca/>

¹¹http://www.fau.edu/ufsgov/Files/2016_2017/APR-2017/daca_resolution.pdf

¹²<http://www.psuunderground.com/2017/09/06/upua-passes-resolution-in-support-of-daca-students-at-penn-state/>

¹³http://www.kansan.com/news/resolutions-on-gun-incident-daca-passed-at-student-senate-meeting/article_053d3d6a-9380-11e7-866c-0b88f484e1ce.html