

JUDGE HANEN'S DACA DECISION - AND THE NEW CRISIS THAT COULD COME RIGHT AFTER

Congressional Toolkit

INTRODUCTION

We are only weeks away from critical actions on DACA - and it is possible DACA renewals could be halted in a month. We need to draw attention to this, to mobilize support and be ready.

On September 5th, 2017, the Trump Administration decided to end the DACA program. Allies quickly came together to challenge the this unjust action, and in January, 2018, a preliminary injunction was granted in the Regents of UCal v. DHS case that forced the government to continue accepting DACA renewals. Since the injunction, 131,320 individuals have applied for their DACA renewal, and 102,440 of those have been approved.

In early May, Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the Administration for continuing the DACA program, declaring the program unconstitutional and calling for its termination. This case will be heard by Brownsville Judge Andrew Hanen on August 8th, where a negative decision is anticipated shortly after. This litigation is an attempt supported by Texas and the Administration to circumvent the two nationwide injunctions that require DACA renewals to be processed, and bring an immediate end to the program.

In response to the current state of play, it is imperative to encourage eligible DACA recipients to submit their renewals as soon as possible, and call attention to Judge Hanen's decision as it will lead to DACA reaching the Supreme Court.

The National Immigration Law Center put together a comprehensive [DACA litigation timeline](#) and potential outcomes that serve as a great resource.

This toolkit is intended for Members of Congress to amplify the current state of play and encourage as many DACA recipients to renew. It includes the following:

- [Messaging Guidance](#)
- [August Recess Events & Press Activities](#)
- [Social Media Guidance](#)

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MESSAGING GUIDANCE

The Current State of Play for Dreamers

- **Due to a court order, DACA is currently open for renewals - but this could come to an end in a matter of weeks.** If the Administration has its way, a federal court in Texas will rule against DACA and likely push this case to the Supreme Court by the fall. Dreamers considering submitting a DACA renewal application should immediately discuss options with a lawyer.
- **The next two weeks are critical for DACA renewals:**
 - Due to current litigation, renewals could end as soon as late August.
 - If you know someone who has DACA, encourage them to visit renewmyDACA.com and talk with an attorney to consider their renewal options.
 - If you are an employer, consider covering renewal fees, providing mental health resources and sponsoring know-your-rights trainings for Dreamer employees.
 - Dreamers should feel empowered to renew their DACA if they are eligible
- **Tens of thousands of DACA recipients could lose their work authorization and deportation protections by the end of this year.** Ending renewals could jeopardize the futures of 800,000 promising young people and their families.
- **Dreamers' lives are hanging in the balance.** Dreamers across the country are living court case to court case, with a constant threat of losing their DACA protections. Only Congress has the authority to enact a permanent solution, and there is no reason to delay a vote on legislation to protect Dreamers.
- **The potential court decision to end renewals reiterates the urgency that the White House and Congress must find a solution to protect Dreamers** -- not just by voting, but by actually passing legislation to permanently shield them from deportation.
- **Protecting Dreamers is something that 83% of the American public — including 79% of Republicans — agree on.** Congress should prioritize this issue immediately, otherwise hundreds of thousands of promising young people who know no other country will face deportation to countries they barely remember. It's long past time for Congress to do their constitutional duty and get to work for the American people.

- **Dreamers are doing their jobs every day in the face of this urgent crisis. It is time for Congress to step up and do theirs.** Dreamers are students pursuing their dreams, and are loving parents to U.S. citizen children. They are teachers educating the next generation of American leaders, nurses caring for the sick and elderly, and engineers building our roads and bridges.
- **Dreamers contribute their talents and skills to the American workforce, making our economy stronger and strengthening our middle class through their economic contributions.** They boost the U.S. economy forward, helping to grow the American tax base through their spending and by paying billions of dollars in federal, state and local taxes.

AUGUST RECESS EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Goal: Raise awareness at all possible moments

*****We need your help in educating the public on this crucial decision that will influence the trajectory of the DACA program, as well as encouraging DACA recipients to renew if they're eligible*****

What you can do:

- 1) Use town halls, meetings with business owners, chambers, and other community stakeholders.
- 2) Use your social media platforms to encourage eligible DACA recipients to talk with a lawyer and send in their renewals.

Dedicate district staff to assist DACA recipients!

Put aside a number of dates where district caseworkers and staff can host an open house to help with DACA renewals.

****These dates should be as soon as possible to ensure applications get processed in case litigation lifts the current injunctions.**

Informational roundtables

Partner with a local immigrant rights organization to host a roundtable discussion, inviting a DACA recipient(s) and key community stakeholders. The roundtable discussion can highlight stories and the upcoming decision.

Submit a Supportive OpEd

Submit an Op-Ed to your local newspaper on the significance of Judge Hanen's decision and the positive contributions of the DACA program to your district. Highlight a positive interaction or share the inspiring story of a DACA recipient from your district.

Issue a Press Release

It is pivotal to amplify this important development through notifying the media. Press releases help convey the importance and seriousness of this development. Address your release to local and national media outlets with an interest in immigration reporting.

Meet with an Ed Board

Meeting with an Editorial Board allow you to advocate for your position with the leadership team of a media outlet. The goal is for the Editorial Board to publish an editorial in support of Dreamers, which can help amplify visibility on an issue that is critically important to the community.

SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDANCE

 @FWD_us

Leading Up to Judge Hanen's DACA Decision Social Guidance

Suggested hashtag: #DACA #RenewDACA #FamiliesBelongTogether

1) Since the Trump administration ended the #DACA program on September 5, 2017, two nationwide injunctions have allowed people who have previously had DACA to renew their status.

Because there are active legal threats to the program, it is important to renew your #DACA status as soon as possible. Go to: <https://bit.ly/2uzFbku>

2) Ahead of potential judicial rulings, it is important to renew your #DACA as soon as possible.

Go to #InformedImmigrant for a step by step DACA renewal guide: <https://bit.ly/2uzFbku>
#RenewDACA #DACA

3) Due to a court order, #DACA is currently open for renewals - but this could come to an end in a matter of weeks. I urge DACA recipients to send in their renewals as soon as possible. Go to Informed Immigrant to renew now: <https://bit.ly/2uzFbku>

4) There is an urgent legislative crisis surrounding the #DACA program. Ahead of potential judicial rulings, it is important to renew your DACA as soon as possible. Go to <https://bit.ly/2uzFbku> to renew now. #RenewDACA

5) Understanding what your fundamental rights are and how to use them will help you advocate for yourself and respond appropriately if you encounter the police or immigration enforcement. Go to Informed Immigrant to #KnowYourRights and #RenewDACA <https://bit.ly/2JKtpcs>

Post Judge Hanen Decision Social Guidance

1) The future of the #DACA program is uncertain. If you have DACA or have had it in the past, I strongly urge you to send in your renewal as soon as possible. Go to <https://bit.ly/2uzFbku>



1) All DACA recipients have lived in the United States for at least a decade, and many for much longer. The average Dreamer came to the United States at the age of six and is now 26 years old. They were educated in American elementary, middle, and high schools, and many have earned degrees from U.S. universities. Dreamers are Americans in virtually every single way, except on paper.

On September 5th, 2017, the Trump Administration decided to end the DACA program and only allow one more month of renewal to come through. However, in January, 2018, a preliminary injunction was granted in the Regents of UCal v. DHS case that forced the government to continue accepting DACA renewals since it had found wrongdoing in the way the Administration ended the program. Since the injunction, 131,320 individuals have applied for DACA, and 102,440 of those have been approved.

Because of recent, active legal threats to the program, it is important to renew your DACA status as soon as possible. Go to Informed Immigrant to learn how to renew: <https://bit.ly/2uzl4Dx> #RenewDACA
