



November 29, 2021

Andria Strano  
Acting Chief, Office of Policy and Strategy  
Division of Humanitarian Affairs, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
Department of Homeland Security  
5900 Capital Gateway Drive  
Camp Springs, MD 20746

Re: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0006, Comment in Response to Deferred Action for  
Childhood Arrivals

Dear Acting Chief Strano,

At Stanford, we have seen firsthand the positive impact that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy has had on the lives of those who were brought to the United States as children. Our country is strong and prosperous because we are a nation of immigrants. In keeping with our deeply held American values, these individuals deserve the opportunity to continue to live, work, and thrive in the United States.

It is for this reason that I submit this comment letter in response to United States Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposed rule, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DHS Docket No. USCIS-2021-0006) and in strong support of codifying the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals policy into regulation.

Stanford endorses the comments submitted by the American Council on Education on behalf of the higher education community. I am writing separately to share additional perspectives from Stanford on the importance of providing stability for current DACA recipients and other undocumented individuals.

DACA has enabled more than 825,000 individuals to contribute to our country's future. These individuals are promising students, staff, and physicians at universities across the country, including at Stanford, making immeasurable contributions that advance our mission of research, education, and patient care for the benefit of humanity. By clarifying that persons subject to deferred action are lawfully present and eligible to work, the proposed rule provides the stability and safety needed for DACA recipients, who have relied on this nearly-decade long policy, to confidently continue to participate in educational opportunities and be active members of their communities - all of which has a significant positive impact on the American economy.

Acting Chief Andria Strano

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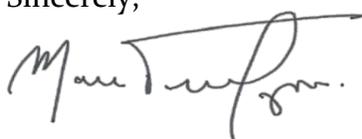
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The proposed rule, unfortunately, does not provide protection or the ability to work for all undocumented individuals brought to the United States as young children, including those currently seeking a postsecondary education. Stanford urges USCIS to consider expanding the eligibility criteria in the final rule to include students and other youth currently present in this country. By updating the eligibility dates in which a recipient must be present to the current time period rather than the original 2012 Memorandum, it would ensure all individuals brought to the United States as young children will have the safety, stability, and opportunities they deserve.

While this proposed rule is an important step forward, it is also critical that Congress act to move forward with a legislative solution, including a pathway to citizenship, for our nation's DACA recipients, undocumented youth, and for others throughout the country that have long called America home. At Stanford, we continue to urge Congressional leadership to support the DREAM and Promise Act and have undertaken an array of advocacy efforts supporting undocumented members of our community.

The foundation of our work at Stanford to drive discovery and advance knowledge are the curious and innovative students, faculty, and staff, from all walks of life and from all backgrounds. Stanford steadfastly believes that protecting those brought as children to the United States, the only country they have known, is both the right thing to do as well as an investment in our country's future. We look forward to working with you and the Biden Administration to enact the policy changes needed to provide stability and protection for current DACA recipients as well as other undocumented individuals so they may continue to contribute to a brighter future for our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Tessier-Lavigne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne