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INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Amici American Immigration Council, American Immigration Lawyers Association, Define American, National Immigrant Justice Center, National Immigration Law Center, New Poverty Law Center, and United We Dream R S S R V H 3 O D L Q W L I I V U H T X H V W I R U injunction against' H I H Q G n e d e r e d a c t i o n i n i t i a t i v e . T h e i n i t i a t i v e , w h i c h i s d e s c r i b e d L Q 6 H F U H W D U \ - H K - 2 0 1 4 R e m o v a l a n d R e t u r n Y H F E G E D Q W 7 , a n d U H I H U U H G W R E H O R Z I n i t i a t i v e s h o u l d b e i n s t i t u t e d w i t h f e w d e l a y

In this brief, amici V X S S O H P H Q W o r l d B y H o e S e d i o G W M n expertise that supports' H I H Q G n e d e r e d a c t i o n i n i t i a t i v e a n d w h e r e t h e p u b l i c i n t e r e s t l i e s . A m i c i d e m o n s t r a t e t h a t t h e D e f e r r e d A c t i o n I n i t i a t i v e p r o m i s e s t o h a v e s i g n i f i c a n t a n d w i d e s p r e a d b e n e f i t s t o t h e U . S . e c o n o m y , i n c r e a s i n g w a g e s , i n c r e a s i n g t a x r e v e n u e , a n d c r e a t i n g n e w j o b s . I n a d d i t i o n , a m i c i s h o w t h e b e n e f i t s o f t h e D e f e r r e d A c t i o n I n i t i a t i v e t o i n d i v i d u a l i m m i g r a n t s , t h e i r f a m i l i e s , a n d t h e c o m m u n i t i e s w h i c h t h e y p l a y a n i n t e g r a l r o l e

STATEMENT OF THE NATURE AND STAGE OF THE PROCEEDING

The parties to this case have addressed the nature and stage of the proceeding in their motion and opposition. Amici do not agree with all of the statements, but address only the issues here. First, as Defendants have explained, U.S. Department of Homeland Security

DHS ' maintains prosecutorial discretion under Deferred Action Initiative to decide on a case by- F D V H E D V L V Z K H W K H U W R J U D Q W D Q \ S D U W L F X O D U L Q C

were denied. Id. at 41. (It is hardly surprising that more than 90 percent of DACA applications are approved, as individuals with stronger equities have a greater incentive to pay the DACA

ARGUMENT

Amici demonstrate below that a preliminary injunction would harm the economy, as well as individuals who would otherwise be granted deferred action, their families, and their communities. Incurring this harm would

percent over the next ten years as a result of all of the executive actions (including that concerning highly skilled workers); 0.1 percent of these gains is attributable to deferred action.

The federal government, as well as state and local governments, will enjoy higher tax revenues as a result of the Deferred Action Initiative. Not only will previously unauthorized workers be brought into the formal workforce, with much higher rates of tax compliance, but they will also be able to obtain better jobs and earn higher wages. Estimates vary, but all agree

maximize their earning potential¹⁵. Making workers eligible for deferred action and work permits will allow them greater occupational mobility, enabling them to seek out a wider range

eligible to receive deferred action through this initiative.³ Z L O O H [S H U L H Q F H D O D E R U
R I E L O O L²⁰ R Q G R O O D U V

The benefits of the Deferred Action Initiative for upward mobility are apparent from the impact of the initial DACA program, announced in June 2012. According to the findings of a national survey of 1,402 young adults across the country who were approved for DACA through June 2013

Since receiving DACA, young adult immigrants have become more integrated L Q W R W K H Q D W L R Q V H F R Q R P L F L Q V W L W X W L R Q V \$ S S U surveyed have obtained a new job since receiving DACA. Meanwhile, over half have opened their first bank account, and 38% have obtained their first credit card.²¹

In short, DACA created greater levels of contribution to the workforce by educated individuals who previously had limited employment opportunities.

B. Examples Of Benefits From Deferred Action

The stories of the individuals described below highlight the benefits of permitting the Executive Branch to roll out the Deferred Action Initiative unimpeded by judicial intervention. As Defendants have explained, the Deferred Action Initiative allows DHS to focus its limited resources on such priorities as national security and public safety. Dkt. 353 at 51. The initiative does so by identifying individuals who are low priority because they were brought to the United States as children, have long-standing ties to the country and to U.S. citizen and lawful permanent resident children, and have no history of serious crimes, and allowing them to submit an application (including a fee) to remain in the country for a limited period of time,

²⁰ Dr. Raul Hinojosa Ojeda with Maksim Wynn, *supra* 9, Appendix A at 32.

²¹ Roberto G. Gonzales and Veronica Terriquez, *How DACA is Impacting the Lives of Those who are now DACAmented: Preliminary Findings from the National UnDACAmented Research Project* (American Immigration Council, 2013), <http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/howdacaimpactinglives-thosewho-are-now-dacamented>.

thereby freeing up enforcement resources for high priorities. The following are descriptions of some individuals who stand to benefit from deferred action

1. Individuals brought to the United States as children

Expanded DACA, like its predecessor, is designed to allow individuals who were brought to the United States as children, pursued educational opportunities, and lack a viable means to legalize their status to apply for a temporary reprieve from deportation and work authorization. The eligible individuals often know only the United States as their home despite having been raised and educated here. The original DACA program limited relief to individuals who were under age 31 as of June 15, 2012. This cut-off date excluded numerous individuals.

For example, Jose Antonio Vargas is now age 33, arrived in the United States at the age of 12 from Antipolo, Philippines. He currently lives in California. Jose Antonio is a well-known journalist and filmmaker who was part of Washington Post team that won the Pulitzer Prize for coverage of the Virginia Tech shootings in 2011. He is also a filmmaker and founder of the nonprofit media and culture campaign 'Define American,' which seeks to elevate the immigration conversation in the United States. Jose Antonio is a U.S. State Department visa waiver program participant and holds a U.S. State Department visa waiver program participant license. He is the only undocumented member of his family. He missed the age cutoff for the original DACA program by a few months. Jose Antonio is already an American entrepreneur and business owner who has made tremendous contributions to society through his films and advocacy work. He has created numerous jobs for U.S. citizens despite lacking his own work

authorization for which the expanded DACA initiative would finally allow Jose Antonio to apply.

would qualify for the Deferred Action Initiative under the November 20, 2014 Memorandum Receiving deferred action would not only remove the constant fear of deportation that Juan Carlos faces but also would allow him to pursue higher education, to follow his dream of becoming an architect, and to better support his parents through lawful employment.²⁴

Dani. Dani entered the U.S. lawfully from the Philippines at the age of 18 with her mother, who had a visa to work in a domestic capacity for a World Bank employee. She has lived in the United States since November 2008, attended school in the United States, and received her diploma from a high school in the District of Columbia. Despite having good grades, Dani could not qualify for financial aid due to her immigration status. The original announcement of DACA did not help Dani as she entered after the June 15, 2007 cutoff. She did not meet the other eligibility criteria for DACA at that time. The recent expansion of DACA to those who entered between June 15, 2007 and January 1, 2010 would allow Dani to apply.²⁵

2. Parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents

Certain other individuals with strong ties to the United States will become eligible for deferred action based on the immigration status of their children.

Nery. For example, Nery is a 33-year-old citizen of El Salvador who has been in the United States since 2007 and currently resides in Illinois. He is the father of two U.S. citizen sons, one of whom has been diagnosed with Fragile X syndrome, developmental delays, and a heart murmur. He has taken his son to numerous hospitals and cardiologists in the United States. His son cannot communicate his needs, cannot feed himself, and has limited mobility.

her in the stomach while she was pregnant; on another occasion, he threatened her with a knife. The abuser was arrested for felony battery and eventually deported. As the mother of U.S. citizen children, Rebeca could benefit from deferred action, which would enable her to continue to raise her children in the only country they have ever known.²⁸

Rosa Maria. Rosa Marias 61 years old and was born in Hermosillo, Mexico. She came to the United States more than 15 years ago on a tourist visa to visit California. She stayed after her visa expired hoping that she could improve her life by earning a better living and helping her children get access to a good education. She originally came to the United States alone without her children, who remained in Mexico in the care of her adult children. Her youngest daughter, Dulce, came to join her in July 2000 and they moved to Arizona.

Living in the United States has allowed Dulce to get a good education and to succeed professionally. Dulce graduated from Arizona State University in 2009 with a degree in electrical engineering and has been a leader in the Arizona Dream Act Coalition, which helps promote the rights of undocumented youth in Arizona. However, living in the United States has also been challenging for Rosa Maria, who has been separated from her family in Mexico. Because of her lack of immigration status, she has had to miss the funerals of three of her siblings and one of her parents as well as the university graduation of one of her children. Rosa Maria has U.S. citizen siblings, and her daughter Dulce is now a lawful permanent resident, which qualifies Rosa Maria to apply for the Deferred Action Initiative. If granted deferred action, Rosa Maria would be in a better position to support her family.²⁹

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Sara and Juan. Sara and Juan are the parents of four children of whom are U.S. citizens. They currently live in Austin, Texas where they are involved in their church. Sara and Juan are originally from Guanajuato, Mexico and have lived in the United States for 12 years and 14 years, respectively. Both of them would be eligible to apply for deferred action because of their two U.S. citizen children. If Sara and Juan are approved for deferred action, their children would no longer have to worry about the possibility that their parents might be deported while they are at school or merely going about their daily activities. To Sara and Juan, having deferred action would mean a sense of peace and opportunity for their family. They would also finally feel able to invest in a home without the fear of losing it.

These stories illustrate the strong benefits Deferred Action Initiative will provide to our country and economy. These benefits, as well as those the Defendants discuss, demonstrate that a preliminary injunction would cause significant harms and would be against the public interest.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons in this brief, the preliminary injunction should be denied.

Dated December 29, 2014

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jonathan Weissglass

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³⁰ See Letter from Julieta Garibay, Co-founder and Deputy Advocacy Director of United We Dream, to Karen Tumlin, NILC (Dec 29, 2014) (on file with NILC).

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