

Build Mass Resistance to

DEFEND DACA

Fight for Full Rights for ALL Undocumented Immigrants!

After months of promising Dreamers that they had nothing to worry about and that he had a “big heart,” Trump announced the end of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA). This is a vicious attack on all immigrants, targeting 800,000 young people who came to the U.S. at an early age and who voluntarily gave their information to the government in exchange for removing the threat of deportation.

What Is Trump Doing?

On the one hand, Trump presents himself as still sympathetic to the plight of Dreamers and suggests that he is willing to sign legislation securing their right to stay. But talking points distributed by the administration say that DACA recipients should prepare to “self-deport.” This is the language of the far right. This is not the action of someone who thinks DACA recipients are “great kids” or of someone who has a “great love” for Dreamers.

Evidence is piling up of Trump’s willingness to pursue the most mean spirited, utterly indefensible attacks on vulnerable populations, as part of the strategy of cementing his support on the right.

Trump’s attack on DACA follows his defense of white supremacists in Charlottesville and his pardoning of Arizona Sheriff Joe Arpaio. But facing increasing political isolation in Washington and blowback from important sections of the ruling class, Trump is clearly worried that he may have gone too far with DACA.

DACA’s Origins

Obama started DACA because of the total deadlock on immigration reform in Congress, failing to pass the widely supported DREAM act. However, we should never forget that Obama himself was dubbed “Deporter-in-Chief” by immigrant rights organizations, as he deported more people than all previous administrations combined. DACA itself was a concession to a militant protest and direct action movement led by fearless undocumented youth and their supporters.

It is clear that without sustained, coordinated, and escalating mass protest and direct action, neither Congress nor Trump will act to legalize DACA.

Unfortunately, but predictably, the Democratic Party leadership appears more focused on making a deal with Trump than mobilizing any type of popular fight back.

Build Mass Resistance

There is enormous scope to build that kind of movement as the vast majority of the U.S. population favors continuation of DACA. As the Washington Post notes “At the end of last year, Pew Research asked Americans if those who immigrated illegally as children should be allowed to stay in the country. Nearly three-quarters said they should, with a third saying that such a policy was ‘very important.’ The overall figure includes 82 percent of Democrats and 60 percent of Republicans.”



SOCIALIST ALTERNATIVE

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Corporate America has its own reasons to favor DACA: it wants to regularize the position of some undocumented workers while leaving the bulk of them as super-exploited, second-class workers.

The ruling class seeks to use immigrant labor to help drive down wage levels overall. We seek to raise the living standards of the whole working class by rebuilding the labor movement as a fighting force. Immigrant workers will be a decisive force in rebuilding labor. For the same reason, in addition to it being the most humane position, we are in favor of citizenship rights for all undocumented workers.

The threat of mass resistance played a key role in stopping Trump's Muslim Ban and the threat to deport millions in the first six months of his administration. These resistance networks must be reactivated and developed further on campuses, in workplaces, and in communities. Already, there have been significant protests, student walkouts, and civil disobedience in multiple cities.

Every fighter for immigrant rights understands that defeating Trump and Sessions will require far bigger and more extensive

mobilizations. Our inspiration should be the mass movement of immigrant workers that defeated the racist Sensenbrenner bill in 2006. But this time there will be far greater unity of immigrants and the native born as this vicious administration is bringing millions together. Defeating Trump's attack on DACA will be another step in the wider fight to drive him from office and defeat the right.

Immediately, large immigrant rights organizations, unions, progressive leaders like Sanders, and the entire left need to set the date for a national day of action to start bringing out hundreds of thousands or millions into the streets to make it clear that the consequence of ending DACA and deporting Dreamers will be massive social unrest. Workplace actions, up to and including strikes as well as mass blockades and occupations should be a part of strategic and tactical escalation.

These mobilizations, while focusing on the immediate question of DACA, should also raise broader demands for immigrant rights and against the entire racist, xenophobic agenda of the right.



No rotten deals with Trump. ♦ Make DACA permanent.

End the threat of deportations for all undocumented workers and their families.

For *real* sanctuary cities: no cooperation with ICE plus living wages, free college for all residents, housing justice, healthcare and services for all.

Ban “broken windows” policing and profiling of immigrant populations.

Unconditional, immediate legalization for all undocumented immigrants including citizenship rights.

Unite the fight for immigrant rights to all the other struggles against the right into a mighty force to bring down Trump.

