September 19, 2017

**Resolution 2017-2018-11: A Resolution to Support Members of the Georgetown Law Community Affected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Policy**

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012, Janet Napolitano, the U.S. Secretary of Homeland Security then serving under President Barack Obama issued a memorandum instituting the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) policy; and

WHEREAS, DACA permitted persons who came to the United States as children and met several qualifications to request deferred action on their immigration removal proceedings for a two-year period, and on a renewable basis thereafter; and

WHEREAS, an individual was eligible for deferred action under DACA if they:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the U.S. before reaching their 16th birthday;
3. Continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007 up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, and at the time they requested consideration for deferred action;
5. Had no lawful status on June 15, 2012
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, or three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety; and

WHEREAS, under DACA, an eligible individual could receive an advance parole permit, allowing an immigrant without a valid visa to re-enter the United States after traveling abroad; and

WHEREAS, under DACA, an eligible individual could also receive an Employment Authorization to work in the United States; and

WHEREAS, those seeking deferred action under DACA are colloquially referred to as “Dreamers;” and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017 President Donald Trump and the White House Press Secretary announced that the President would be ending the DACA policy; and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump announced on Twitter that “Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA…if they can’t I’ll revisit the issue!”; and

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2017 the White House Press Secretary issued a statement that “the Trump Administration is rescinding the previous Administration’s memorandum…[regarding] DACA and has begun to end the program responsibly”; and

WHEREAS, the September 5, 2017 White House press statement indicated that “the Department [of Homeland Security] will generally not take actions to remove DACA recipients”; and

WHEREAS the September 5, 2017 White House press statement indicated that “DACA applications filed after today will not be accepted,” and “renewal applications for DACA Employment Authorization Documents for people whose current Employment Authorization Documents expire between [September 5, 2017] and March 5, 2018 filed after October 5, 2017 will not be processed;” and

WHEREAS, the September 5, 2017 White House press statement indicated that “all pending applications for advance parole by DACA recipients will be closed and all associated fees refunded;” and

WHEREAS, on September 13, 2017 House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer met with President Donald Trump to discuss passing Congressional legislation to authorize DACA; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Georgetown Law Student Bar Association, as stated in the preamble of this body’s Constitution, is “to represent the entirety of the Georgetown Law community in furthering our education…and advocating student concerns” (emphasis added); and

 WHEREAS, Georgetown Law Dreamers including students, faculty, and staff may be receiving (or may have received) deferred action under DACA in order to “further their education”; and

WHEREAS, the Georgetown Law Student Bar Association Bylaws charges the Diversity Committee with “promot[ing] diversity…on campus” and, “work[ing] to encourage and foster an environment of inclusiveness and respect of different backgrounds, values, and beliefs”; and

WHEREAS, the contribution of Dreamers to the Georgetown Law community “promotes diversity on campus” by incorporating a multitude of experiences, backgrounds, and perspectives to our legal education; and

WHEREAS, the termination of DACA would likely prevent Georgetown Law Dreamers from “furthering their education,” because they would no longer receive deferred action on their immigration removal proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the termination of DACA would be adverse to “promot[ing] diversity on campus” by depriving Georgetown Law of historically-underrepresented and valued experiences, voices, and perspectives; and

WHEREAS, Georgetown Law’s Dean William Treanor stated that the Trump Administration’s termination of DACA “threatens to shatter the lives and dreams of hundreds of thousands of young people;” and

WHEREAS, Dean Treanor also stated that Dreamers are “integral members of our workforce, our military, and our schools, including Georgetown,” and that “we are committed to providing support in the community for those affected;”

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Student Bar Association, in fulfilling the preamble of this body’s Constitution, in the spirit of promoting diversity and inclusion on campus, and to assist in furthering the education of our diverse student body, commits to taking immediate action to support the Georgetown Law community affected by the DACA policy including, but not limited to:

1. Declaring that we stand in solidarity with our classmates affected by DACA in our shared goals to further our education; and
2. Urging Congress, through correspondence as deemed suitable by this body, to pass legislation within 6 months that would allow members of the Georgetown Law community who were previously eligible under the DACA policy to remain enrolled in school or employed with an Employment Authorization; and
3. Empowering all student organizations whose membership is directly affected by DACA in the form of appropriate event co-sponsorship, and finding creative ways to address any student organization’s concerns that may arise should DACA be terminated; and
4. Facilitating access to Georgetown Law’s legal resources for undocumented students, including, but not limited to, the Georgetown Undocumented Student Services Department, and Catholic Charities Immigration Legal Services; and
5. Affirming our support of both President DeGioia’s September 5, 2017 statement, “Supporting Our Undocumented Students” statement, and Dean Treanor’s September 6, 2017 “Message to the Community” statement regarding DACA; and
6. Petitioning the Georgetown University Administration to add a Law School representative to serve on the University’s Undocumented Students Working Group; and
7. Insisting that the Georgetown Law Administration use all legally available methods to prevent the disclosure of the identities and status of immigrant students.

Respectfully submitted,

**Elijah Staggers**, SBA Diversity Committee Chair

**Christopher Joyce**, SBA Vice-President

**Samantha Malone**, Delegate, 2L Representative

**Courtney Wilkes,** Delegate, 3L Representative