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Academic authorities and experts on and in Latin America strongly condemn the rescinding of DACA and call on the U.S. Congress to pass a stand-alone DREAM Act that provides a path to citizenship

More than 80 percent of “Dreamers” were brought to the United States by parents from Mexico and Central America. Many of them were fleeing violence and seeking a better future. Much of that violence and the limited life chances it produces for children and parents are a result of U.S. foreign policy and military, economic, political and covert intervention.

“They're here, because the United States is there. Now this place is their home. To further endanger their status and deport them is wrong. Period. We urge the United State Congress to pass a stand-alone DREAM ACT that would provide a path to citizenship,” stated the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Executive Council.

The DACA program shields young undocumented immigrants from deportation and grants them temporary legal status, which allows them to work, study and contribute to their local communities. Approximately 1.9 million undocumented young people are eligible to apply for the DACA program. Of those who have DACA status, about 576,000 are enrolled in college. Furthermore, 95% of DACA recipients are either working or in school.

LASA, which is the largest professional Association in the world for individual scholars and institutions engaged in the study of Latin America, contends that the United States betrayed the confidence of the nearly 800,000 undocumented young people who had their request for DACA status granted in 2016. “That is, nearly one million young people believed our promise that they would be safe revealing their undocumented status on the pathway to residency and citizenship, and trusted that our democracy values human and civil rights,” stated the LASA Executive Council. “We urge Congress to act immediately to provide protections for young people and their families whose lives are disrupted and endangered through the rescinding of DACA. We further urge Congress to enact a comprehensive immigration reform policy that welcomes immigrants to U.S. shores.”

If you wish to interview a LASA Executive Council member, you can contact the LASA communications office at (412) 648-7929 or lasa@pitt.edu.