



## County of Sonoma Agenda Item Summary Report

Clerk of the Board  
575 Administration Drive  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

**Agenda Item Number: 54A**  
(This Section for use by Clerk of the Board Only.)

**To:** Board of Supervisors

**Board Agenda Date:** September 12, 2017

**Vote Requirement:** Majority

**Department or Agency Name(s):** County Administrator  
County Counsel

**Staff Name and Phone Number:**

Rebecca Wachsberg, 565-3782  
Lani Maher, 565-6119

**Supervisorial District(s):**

All

**Title:** Resolution to Protect and Support Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) Participants

### **Recommended Actions:**

Adopt a Resolution affirming the County's commitment to protect and support Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) participants and immigrant community members residing within Sonoma County.

### **Executive Summary:**

Fear and anxiety levels in our community have again peaked regarding Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke's recent issuance of a memorandum rescinding the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA), a federal program designed to protect young, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children from deportation, and to provide them with authorization to work in the United States. This announcement threatens the health and safety of many Sonoma County families, including our 6000 DACA recipients, 4000 of whom are K-12 students. This action recommends the adoption of a resolution to affirm the County's commitment to protect and support DACA participants specifically, and immigrant communities more broadly.

### **Discussion:**

On January 10, 2017, the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2017-2018 Legislative Platform, which sets forth those issues for which the County intends to advocate at a State and Federal level. The Platform includes the County's intention to support efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants, increase funding for legal services and deportation defense, and address the growing number of undocumented children crossing the border, including increasing funds for immigration-related legal services, shelter, and care.

In 2012, then-acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Janet Napolitano, issued a memorandum that established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA). DACA is a federal program designed to protect young, undocumented immigrants who were brought to the United States as children from deportation, and to provide them with authorization to work in the United States. The program issues employment authorization to eligible applicants, subject to termination or renewal every two years. To be eligible for DACA, an individual must have been brought to this country as a child, must demonstrate lawful conduct, and must have continued to pursue an education. DACA participants are a vital component of our County's, our State's, and our Nation's current and future economic, cultural, and intellectual success. There are currently over 800,000 DACA participants, approximately 6,000 of whom reside in Sonoma County.

On September 5, 2017, the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Elaine Duke, issued a memorandum rescinding DACA and devising a plan to phase the program out over the next six months. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is no longer accepting new DACA applications and, with the exception of current DACA participants whose benefits will expire by March 5, 2018, and who apply for renewal under the program by October 5, 2017, DHS has pledged to reject all renewal requests. Because DACA participants are subject to strict identification and documentation requirements, the program's rescission leaves them especially vulnerable to deportation. This announcement will directly affect DACA participants residing across Sonoma County, as well as their families, employers, educators, classmates, and friends. Rescission of the DACA program is just one of several recent actions taken by the Trump Administration that incite fear and uncertainty among many communities in Sonoma County, throughout our State, and across the Nation.

The County of Sonoma is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic and national backgrounds, and immigrant rights are of great importance to the County. The Board's dedication to this priority is evidenced by the creation of the Sonoma County Immigration Initiative, including the establishment of and support to the Secure Families Fund and the Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program, which provide much-needed immigration legal services to the County's immigrant communities.

In keeping with the County's historical support of all of its residents regardless of immigration status, the proposed action memorializes the Board's commitment to protect the rights, safety, and dignity of immigrant communities by:

- Continuing to provide essential services and support to all DACA-eligible County residents;
- Funding the Secure Families Fund and continuing to provide legal services through the Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program;
- Supporting state and local efforts to provide protection for DACA participants and immigrant communities more generally throughout Sonoma County, the State of California, and the Nation as a whole; and
- Urging and supporting our federal representatives to develop and pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation to protect Sonoma County residents from uncertainty based on immigration status.

**Prior Board Actions:**

August 22, 2017: The Board Authorized the County Counsel to execute a Fund Agreement and serve on an Advisory Committee with the Community Foundation Sonoma County to create the Sonoma County Secure Families Fund, dedicated to providing low- and no-cost immigration legal services and education.

June 16, 2017: The Board Approved a \$100,000 donation per year for 3 years to the Sonoma County Secure Families Fund from the Graton Mitigation Fund.

February 21, 2017: The Board authorized a letter of support for Senate Bill 54 (De León), directed staff to conduct legislative advocacy for SB 54 in accordance with the County’s Legislative Program; authorized the extension of the Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program; and approved the Sonoma County Immigration Initiative proposal and timeline.

February 7, 2017: The Board adopted a Resolution affirming the County’s commitment to protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of all residents regardless of immigration status.

January 10, 2017: The Board adopted the 2017-2018 State and Federal Legislative Platform, which authorizes legislative advocacy efforts.

September 23, 2014: The Board established the County Counsel’s Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program.

**Strategic Plan Alignment**      Goal 1: Safe, Healthy, and Caring Community

The County’s initiatives, including increasing legal services and supporting immigration reform seeks to protect the safety and wellbeing of our immigrant community members by ensuring they have access to essential services.

| <b>Fiscal Summary</b>                                             |                                                  |                               |                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Expenditures</b>                                               | <b>FY 17-18<br/>Adopted</b>                      | <b>FY 18-19<br/>Projected</b> | <b>FY 19-20<br/>Projected</b> |
| Budgeted Expenses                                                 |                                                  |                               |                               |
| Additional Appropriation Requested                                |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>                                         |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Funding Sources</b>                                            |                                                  |                               |                               |
| General Fund/WA GF                                                |                                                  |                               |                               |
| State/Federal                                                     |                                                  |                               |                               |
| Fees/Other                                                        |                                                  |                               |                               |
| Use of Fund Balance                                               |                                                  |                               |                               |
| Contingencies                                                     |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Total Sources</b>                                              |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Narrative Explanation of Fiscal Impacts:</b>                   |                                                  |                               |                               |
|                                                                   |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Staffing Impacts</b>                                           |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Position Title<br/>(Payroll Classification)</b>                | <b>Monthly Salary<br/>Range<br/>(A – I Step)</b> | <b>Additions<br/>(Number)</b> | <b>Deletions<br/>(Number)</b> |
|                                                                   |                                                  |                               |                               |
|                                                                   |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Narrative Explanation of Staffing Impacts (If Required):</b>   |                                                  |                               |                               |
|                                                                   |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Attachments:</b>                                               |                                                  |                               |                               |
| Attachment A: Resolution to Protect and Support DACA Participants |                                                  |                               |                               |
| <b>Related Items “On File” with the Clerk of the Board:</b>       |                                                  |                               |                               |
|                                                                   |                                                  |                               |                               |



# County of Sonoma

## State of California

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Date: September 12, 2017

Item Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Resolution Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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4/5 Vote Required

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### **Resolution Of The Board Of Supervisors Of The County Of Sonoma, State Of California, Affirming The County's Support For Deferred Action For Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Participants**

**Whereas**, the County of Sonoma ("County") is home to persons of diverse racial, ethnic and national backgrounds, including a large immigrant population, and immigrant rights are of great importance to the County; and

**Whereas**, the County has historically supported its residents regardless of immigration status and has a demonstrated commitment to safeguarding the civil rights, safety, and dignity of all County residents; and

**Whereas**, the County Counsel's Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program provides legal representation to unaccompanied minors who have immigrated to the United States to escape violent conditions and are subjected to deportation proceedings; and

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors adopted the 2017-2018 Legislative Platform, which specifically sets forth supporting legislative and budgetary efforts to enhance legal protections for undocumented immigrants as an issue for which the County intends to advocate at a State and Federal level; and

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors launched the Sonoma County Immigration Initiative, including the establishment of the Secure Families Fund, to provide much-needed support for the County's immigrant communities; and

**Whereas**, the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program (DACA) was established to protect young, undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children from deportation, and to provide them with authorization to work in the United States; and

**Whereas**, to be eligible for DACA, an individual must have been brought to this country as a minor, must demonstrate lawful conduct, and must have continued to pursue an education; and

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**Whereas**, DACA participants are not a threat to public safety, and are a vital component of our County's current and future economic, cultural, and intellectual success; and

**Whereas**, on September 5, 2017, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke issued a memorandum rescinding DACA and delineating a plan to phase the program out over the next six months; and

**Whereas**, rescinding and phasing out DACA will negatively affect the approximately 6,000 DACA participants residing across Sonoma County, as well as their families, employers, educators, classmates, and friends; and

**Whereas**, rescission of DACA is one of several recent actions taken by the Trump Administration that incite fear and uncertainty among many communities in Sonoma County, throughout our State, and across the Nation; and

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors opposes any federal action that would rescind or alter the DACA program and its much-needed relief; and

**Whereas**, the Board of Supervisors supports immigration reform efforts that would create a legal path to citizenship for DACA recipients;

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that the Board of Supervisors commits to:

1. Continue to provide essential services and support to all County residents who currently participate in DACA or are eligible to participate in DACA; and
2. Fund the Secure Families Fund and continue to provide legal services through the Unaccompanied Child Deportation Defense Program; and
3. Support State and other efforts to provide protection for DACA participants and immigrant communities more generally throughout Sonoma County, the State of California, and the Nation as a whole; and
4. Urge and support our federal representatives to develop and pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation to protect Sonoma County residents from uncertainty related to immigration status.

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**Supervisors:**

Gorin:

Rabbitt:

Gore:

Hopkins:

Zane:

Ayes:

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain:

**So Ordered.**