



RESOLUTION 17-56

WHEREAS, on June 15, 2012, the United States adopted as law the “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA), thereby granting visa/work permits to undocumented immigrants who may have arrived in the United States illegally as young children with their parents, and have had no control over the circumstances of their arrival, and;

WHEREAS, these “Dreamers” have established their lives in the United States, attended school and become productive citizens of the only country and home that they have known, but often remain undocumented into adulthood through no fault of their own; and

WHEREAS, DACA applies solely to undocumented immigrants, (1) who have been in the U.S. since 2007 and came here before age 16 years, or (2) who were under 31 years of age before June 15, 2012 when DACA went into effect, and (3) who have a high school diploma, are currently attending an educational institution in the United States, or have served in the U.S. military, and;

WHEREAS, DACA only allows these undocumented children and young adults to obtain two year renewable visas (work permits), but does not grant them U.S. citizenship or create permanent residency, and;

WHEREAS, since its enactment, DACA has allowed undocumented young people to become legally employed, attend American educational institutions, serve in the U.S. military, pay income and social security taxes, open bank accounts, purchase homes and vehicles, and otherwise contribute to the U.S. economy and become productive and contributing members of their community and the American workforce, and;

WHEREAS, with nearly 800,000 qualified participants in the program, DACA has had a significant and positive effect on U.S. economic growth, with some studies finding that termination of DACA could cost the federal government 60 billion dollars and reduce economic growth by approximately 280 billion dollars in the next ten years, and;

WHEREAS, the federal government may now be in the process of repealing DACA, with a sixth month grace period, which could result in the loss of young, skilled and educated members of the work force, threaten family units, reduce the collection of taxes through legal work programs, and ultimately devastate individuals facing sudden deportation with the loss of their jobs, academic pursuits, as well as families and friends, and.;

WHEREAS, DACA does not involve or provide protection to undocumented immigrants who are suspected of committing crimes or breaking the law, and;

WHEREAS, with the elimination of DACA, even “Dreamers” who are actively serving in the U.S. military would threatened with deportation and left without legal protection to stay in the U.S., the country they have voluntarily signed up to protect, and;

WHEREAS, many members of the U.S. Congress, both Republican and Democrat, recognize the importance of ensuring the continuance of DACA through the passage of formal legislation and are committed to do so in the coming months;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF TAOS TOWN COUNCIL THAT WE FIND AS FOLLOWS:

1. DACA is an important policy that supports undocumented “Dreamers” who, due to their young age, often immigrated to the U.S. through no fault of their own.
2. Dreamers have made an essential contribution to local economies, educational institutions and the U.S. military.
3. The elimination of DACA could have devastating consequences for local businesses and schools, and especially institutions of higher learning.
4. DACA has significantly contributed to local, state and federal budgets by allowing a legal avenue for employment of undocumented young people and payment of income and social security taxes.
5. DACA has contributed to small businesses by supplying an inexpensive and reliable source of labor.
6. DACA ensures the unification of families. The elimination of DACA could result in undocumented “Dreamers” being deported, while their younger siblings remain in the U.S. because they were born here and retain citizenship status. In some cases, where the children of “Dreamers” are US citizens, these children could be left behind and could face being placed in the child welfare system with little or no contact with a parent facing deportation.
7. DACA provides numerous benefits to the economic and social well-being of the Taos community and supports many of its current families.
8. The Town of Taos endorses the continuation of DACA in its current form and as previously adopted, without any unnecessary interruption in the program until it can be reaffirmed by act of Congress.
9. The Town encourages efforts by Congress to create formal legislation to continue and strengthen the DACA program in order to support local and national economies, educational institutions, the U.S. military and immigrant families and the Town encourages Congress to act quickly in order to minimize disruption to the current system

in place and the lives of the thousands of Dreamers and their families during the six month grace period before the expiration of the program.

PASSED, APPROVED and ADOPTED, this 12th day of December, 2017, at the Regular Meeting of the Town Council by the following vote:

Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Evans	_____
Councilmember Judith Y. Cantu	_____
Councilmember Darien D. Fernandez	_____
Councilmember George “Fritz” Hahn	_____

TOWN OF TAOS

Daniel R. Barrone, Mayor

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Renee Lucero, Town Clerk

Stephen Ross, Town Attorney