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Contact:
Beverly Quintana
Communications Manager, AAPCHO
(510) 272-9536 x112
bquintana@aapcho.org

AAPCHO Disappointed in Supreme Court Split Decision, Continues Fight for Immigration Reform

WASHINGTON – The Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO) expressed great disappointment with the Supreme Court’s split decision on *United States v. Texas* today, which prevents the implementation of President Obama’s executive actions to expand the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and establish the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) programs. The initiatives would have benefited over four million people, including nearly half a million Asian Americans.

The Supreme Court 4-4 deadlock leaves in place a lower court’s decision to block expanded DAPA and expanded DACA. Under these programs, eligible immigrants would have been able to apply for protection from deportation and a work permit. The original DACA program remains unaffected, and more than 100,000 undocumented Asian Americans remain potentially eligible for this program but have not yet applied.

“Asian American, Pacific Islander, and all communities at large would have benefited from these two initiatives,” said Jeffrey Caballero, executive director of AAPCHO. “These programs could help grow our economy, create jobs and most importantly—can help to keep millions of families united. Instead, this verdict means that these programs will continue to be stalled and millions of aspiring Americans will continue to be denied basic rights and security. We stand committed to the needs of all members of our communities and will continue to push for comprehensive immigration reform.”

AAPCHO and its members supported President Obama’s executive actions to expand DACA and establish DAPA, and urged the Supreme Court to lift the injunction currently placed on these programs. With its members, AAPCHO has long advocated for these and other programs to improve the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders. Health centers serve these and other communities with families who are among those at risk of being separated, and who are prevented from participating and contributing more fully in their communities due to the broken U.S. immigration system.

President Obama announced DAPA and expanded DACA on November 2014. Soon after, Texas and 25 other states filed a lawsuit challenging these actions and in February 2015, a federal district court in Texas put these initiatives on hold. The Supreme Court agreed to hear the case this past January and announced its divided decision today. In March 2016, AAPCHO joined an [amicus brief](#) and were among a diverse coalition of over 300 civil rights and immigration groups supporting DAPA and expanded DACA. To learn more about those who would be impacted by this Supreme Court case, visit www.fightforfamilies.org.

About AAPCHO

AAPCHO is a national association of 35 community health organizations dedicated to promoting advocacy, collaboration and leadership that improves the health status and access of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. For more information on AAPCHO, please visit www.aapcho.org.

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