Advancing Justice - Atlanta Disappointed with Georgia’s Court of Appeals Decision to Reverse In-State Tuition for DACA Students

Atlanta, GA, October 26, 2017 — In a ruling, issued on Tuesday, October 24th, 2017, Georgia’s Court of Appeals reversed the Fulton County Court’s decision to grant in-state tuition for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) recipients.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta issue the following statement today:

“Our community is deeply disappointed with the Court of Appeal’s decision to reverse the in-state tuition ruling for DACA students. Access to affordable education has been an important issue for so many of our immigrant families. Advancing Justice - Atlanta will continue to fight to protect and defend the rights of all immigrants, including undocumented and those that have DACA,” said Stephanie Cho, Executive Director at Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta.

Late last year, on December 30th, 2016, Fulton County Judge Gail S. Tuson granted in-state tuition eligibility for DACA recipients in Georgia. This decision would have allowed over 18,000 DACA recipients in Georgia to have access to in-state tuition at the state’s public colleges and universities, if admitted. But now, with the reversal of this decision, DACA students are treated like students from out-of-state, and are required to pay tuition at nearly three times the rate of those in-state. In Georgia there are over 51,000 undocumented youth; of which, over 14% are Asian American.

As DACA is phased out in March 2018, recipients and their families are under experiencing uncertainty about their future. It is imperative, now more than ever, for Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act - legislation that would provide our undocumented immigrant youth with a pathway to citizenship but does not further restrictions on other immigrants and refugees. The vast majority of Americans support the DREAM Act, which has bipartisan support in Congress.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta remains committed to defending the rights of all immigrant community members, including those that are undocumented and with DACA.

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.