Asian Americans Advancing Justice Outraged at Delays on Dream Act, Calls for Resolution in January

Congress Passes Continuing Resolution but Fails to Include DREAM Act

Atlanta, GA, December 21, 2017 — Today Congress passed a continuing resolution to keep the government running but failed to include the DREAM Act as must-pass legislation before holiday recess.

Since the termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, Asian Americans Advancing Justice (Advancing Justice) has called for passage of a clean DREAM Act — a bipartisan piece of legislation that provides a path to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants - without any other provisions, policies, or trade-offs meant to negatively impact the immigration system.

Advancing Justice, a coalition of five civil rights organizations and collective vocal advocates for DACA recipients and the DREAM Act, issues the following statement:

“While Senators and Representatives head home to spend time with their families and enjoy the holidays, nearly 13,000 immigrant youth live in growing fear that this may be the last holiday they will spend united with their families in the U.S. Other immigrant families already face empty places at their family dining tables.

Every day, 122 more immigrant youth lose their status. With no passage of the DREAM Act in sight for the remainder of 2017, more than 800,000 people stand to lose their deportation protections, their jobs, and their stability.

After weeks of public pressure led by undocumented youth, a handful of Senators and Members of Congress pledged their support for a swift passage of the DREAM Act by the end of the year. For those who were not moved by the hundreds of undocumented activists and their allies mobilizing around the country, you have turned your back to these communities and left them at risk of deportation. There will be another opportunity in the New Year to do what is morally right and pass the DREAM Act. We demand you to do the right thing in January.

Congress must not fail our young people. The first few weeks of the New Year are more critical now than ever for Congress to pass this much needed and publicly supported legislation."

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.