

RESOLUTION HONORING 14 YEARS OF THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS PROGRAM AND THE LEGACY OF DACA RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was created as an exercise of prosecutorial discretion on June 15th, 2012 by the Department of Homeland Security under the direction of President Obama to offer certain groups of people who came to the U.S as children temporary protection from deportation and a renewable two-year work authorization as a response to Congress' inaction to pass the DREAM Act; AND

WHEREAS, as of September 2025, nearly 26,850 DACA recipients reside in Illinois and about 505,940 nationwide as estimated by US Citizenship and Immigration Services, with the top countries of birth being Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Peru and South Korea; AND

WHEREAS, since the program's creation, DACA recipients have been part of the fabric of our communities across the U.S., and as adults many of them have become professionals in different sectors, as teachers, business owners, non-profit leaders, doctors and nurses, and even in government service, growing the clientele of their employers and providing culturally-conscious care and services; AND

WHEREAS, as of March 2025, DACA recipients pay approximately \$6.2 billion dollars annually in federal taxes and \$3.3 billion annually in state and local taxes, with an estimated. 21,000 DACA recipients participating in the Illinois workforce; AND

WHEREAS, fourteen years following the program's creation, DACA recipients continue facing the overwhelming uncertainty of their future in this country they have called home for decades, due in large part to the concern of whether they will receive timely renewals for their DACA and work permits or face job loss and deportation if they do not; AND

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2026, CNN reported that such delays have caused between a 400 and 1000% increase in processing times, with the median wait time for renewals between October 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026 rising to 70 days compared to 15 days during federal fiscal year 2026, and many renewal applicants waiting much longer; AND

WHEREAS, a few of these stories reported by CNN include "a postpartum nurse at a hospital in Houston, a manager at an IT healthcare company in the Bay Area, and a retail manager who had been with the same company for seven years—all three of whom waited on unpaid leave for DACA renewals that never came and learned that their DACA had been terminated."; AND

WHEREAS, DACA remains under threat from federal administrative action and from litigation seeking to declare the program illegal and strip thousands of immigrants of their protection from deportation and their authorization to take employment; AND

WHEREAS, Despite clear protections under the DACA program, the up to 260 detentions and 170 deportations of DACA recipients quoted by the Department of Homeland Security since January 2025 reveal

serious concerns about compliance with established guidelines, court orders, and whether the due process rights of these community members have been respected; AND

WHEREAS, With President Trump’s deliberate efforts to destabilize whole communities using violent and unpopular militarized sieges to detain and deport our friends and family members across cities in the U.S over the past year and a half, the fourteenth anniversary of DACA is a reminder that millions of people have been denied finality of status, despite a pathway to citizenship being overwhelmingly popular; AND

WHEREAS, to quote President Obama “For all they have done for our nation, and all they will continue to do, DACA recipients and their families deserve better. Today, I’m renewing my call for Congress to redouble its efforts to build a smart and compassionate immigration system that offers Dreamers a path to citizenship. Let’s honor these Dreamers and everything they’ve done to strengthen our country. Let’s treat them like the Americans that they are. And let’s do everything we can to help build a commonsense immigration system that honors our heritage as a nation of laws and a nation of immigrants. It’s on all of us to finish this work.”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor, Clerk and the City Council of the City of Chicago gathered on this day declare our support in preserving and expanding DACA protections and commit to advocating for DACA recipients living in Chicago and Illinois; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we urge our Congressional representatives to pass legislation that upholds DACA and grants DACA recipients and their families a path to lawful permanent status and US citizenship; AND

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council that suitable copies of this resolution be presented to President Trump, and the Illinois delegation to the United States Congress, as a sign of our dedication to and support of this important issue.

Alderwoman Jeyli B. Gutierrez
14th. Ward

ANDRE VASQUEZ
Alderpersion, 40th Ward

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:


Alderperson Ward 1

Alderperson Ward 2


Alderperson Ward 3

Alderperson Ward 4



Alderperson Ward 5

Alderperson Ward 6

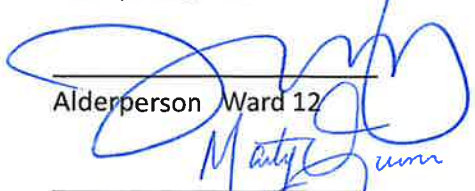
Alderperson Ward 7


Alderperson Ward 8

Alderperson Ward 9


Alderperson Ward 10


Alderperson Ward 11


Alderperson Ward 12

Alderperson Ward 13


Alderperson Ward 14

Alderperson Ward 15

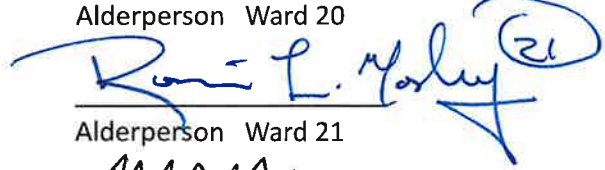
Alderperson Ward 16

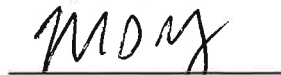
Alderperson Ward 17

Alderperson Ward 18

Alderperson Ward 19

Alderperson Ward 20


Alderperson Ward 21


Alderperson Ward 22

Alderperson Ward 23

Alderperson Ward 24

Alderperson Ward 25

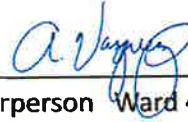

Alderperson Ward 26

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:

Alderperson Ward 39




Alderperson Ward 27



Alderperson Ward 40

Alderperson Ward 28



Alderperson Ward 29

Alderperson Ward 41


Alderperson Ward 42

Alderperson Ward 30



Alderperson Ward 31

Alderperson Ward 43




Alderperson Ward 44

Alderperson Ward 32

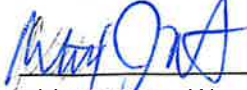
Alderperson Ward 45

Alderperson Ward 33



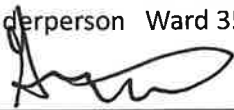
Alderperson Ward 34

Alderperson Ward 46



Alderperson Ward 47

Alderperson Ward 35



Alderperson Ward 36



Alderperson Ward 48

Alderperson Ward 37

Alderperson Ward 49

Alderperson Ward 38

Alderperson Ward 50

Mayor Johnson

The following letter is being circulated by Alderperson Andre Vasquez, Ward 40 regarding a resolution commending the 14 year anniversary of the DACA program and honoring the legacy of DACA recipients, co-signed by:

Clerk Valencia