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Solidarity Rally with Dreamers

Boise, ID, August 14, 2017– A broad coalition of social justice organizations, organizers and individuals will rally on the Idaho Statehouse steps in solidarity with Dreamers and DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients and immigrant youth and to speak out against our culture of white supremacy and systemic racism on Tuesday, August 15th at 12:00 PM as part of a National Day of Action - Defend DACA on its 5 Year Anniversary.

Since 2012, nearly 788,000 young people, approximately 3,000 in Idaho individuals, who were brought to the United States as children, accepted a presidential invitation to come forward, show they are contributing members of society and receive permission to live and work in America with a promise that they would be safe from deportation after passing substantial background checks. With the use of DACA, they have advanced their education, become small business owners, developed into valued employees, and are recognized as vital members of our society.

The Idaho Organizing Project, Community Council of Idaho, ACLU of Idaho, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Planned Parenthood of the Greater Northwest and Hawaii, United Vision for Idaho, and AFL-CIO are among the many Idaho organizations coming together to defend DACA and immigrants, and to interrupt racism. “We are many, we are strong, we are resilient, and we will keep interrupting hate and racism against immigrants and other targeted communities in every way possible,” said Jennifer Martinez, Idaho Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence.

In June, Idaho Gov. Butch Otter joined 10 state attorneys general – including Idaho Attorney General Lawrence Wasden – and signed a letter urging the Trump Administration to phase out the DACA program. Ending DACA for these young people singles out one of the most promising and motivated young people for removal – the very same people who had to prove they were not at fault for being in the U.S., committed to education, and present no danger to our community. Breaking the promise of DACA subject’s recipients to removal, and, in many cases, banishment from the only country they have known to be “home.” The estimated cost of removing these men and women from our workforce is \$460.3 billion in lost gross domestic product over a decade and tens of billions more lost in contributions to Medicare and Social Security; forcing businesses to incur \$3.4 billion in turnover costs.

Organizers encourage community members to come out in support of these vibrant and dynamic Dreamers that have grown into our communities and into our hearts. Our communities are enriched and strengthen by their presence and contributions. “We

urge the Presidential Administration and the Idaho Governor and Attorney General to support DACA recipients, and to recognize their value to Idaho and to resist the short-sighted and cruel act of punishing them when they are the least culpable for the foreign policy, socio-economic problems that fuel migration,” said Maria Andrade, Boise immigration attorney and organizer with the Idaho Organizing Project. “We are gathering as a symbol of assurance to the Dreamers that we see you, we value you and we are ready to defend you.”

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If you would like more information, please contact Jennifer Martinez at 208 320-0596 or email jenniferm@engagingvoices.org