



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **NAACP Indianapolis Supports Legislation to Protect DREAMers**

INDIANAPOLIS — Sept. 16, 2017 — Chrystal Ratcliffe, President of Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch 3053, issued a statement today supporting legislative action to protect “DREAMers.”

“We support people who came to the United States as children without documentation, and we intend to work with other groups to protect these individuals who have known no other home but the United States,” Mrs. Ratcliffe said.

On September 5, 2017, U.S. Attorney General Sessions announced that as of March 5, 2018, the Trump Administration would formally terminate the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*, or “DACA” program which President Obama had initiated and the NAACP supported in June of 2012. The program allowed some individuals who entered the country without documentation as minors to receive a renewable two-year period of deferred action from deportation and eligibility for a work permit. As of 2017, approximately 800,000 individuals—referred to as “DREAMers”, named for legislation known as the DREAM Act—were enrolled in the program created by DACA. Soon after the program was announced in 2012, it was estimated that as many as 1.7 million people already living in the U.S. might qualify. DREAMers originate from all parts of the world including Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Europe, and currently live in every state in our nation.

The *DREAM Act* has once again been introduced with strong bipartisan support in the U.S. Senate (S. 1615, by Senators Lindsey Graham, SC, and Richard Durbin, IL) and in the US House (H.R. 3440, by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard, CA, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, FL) in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. The *DREAM Act* would allow these young people to earn lawful permanent residence and eventu-

ally American citizenship if they: are longtime residents who came to the U.S. as children; graduate from high school or obtain a GED; pursue higher education, work lawfully for at least three years, or serve in the military; pass security and law enforcement background checks and pay a reasonable application fee; demonstrate proficiency in the English language and a knowledge of United States history; and have not committed a felony or other serious crimes and do not pose a threat to our country.

The NAACP has called on its members to contact their elected representatives this week and let them know of our strong support for DREAMers and the DREAM Act. For more information about the plight of the DREAMers and to find out how you can become an effective advocate, please see the attached [Action Alert](#).

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**About NAACP:** The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is the nation's oldest, largest and most widely recognized civil rights organization. Our mission is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights for all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.