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## Dreamers, supporters rally at Elkhart County Courthouse

By John Kline CNHI News Indiana Sep 15, 2017

John Kline | The Goshen NewsA crowd of around 200 people gather at the Elkhart County Courthouse Saturday afternoon for a rally in support of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program that the Trump administration recently announced will soon be phased out.



GOSHEN -- Michelle Salgado, 26, was brought to the United States from Mexico at the age of 5 by parents hoping for a chance at a better life. Jose Rodriguez, 24, has a similar story.

Both are currently living in Elkhart, and have been working hard to achieve the American Dream. But with the announcement that the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program granting them temporary legal status is being axed, those dreams are now in jeopardy.

Salgado and Rodriguez were just two of a number of DACA recipients, also known as “Dreamers,” invited to speak during the “Stand Up 4 DACA” solidarity and informational rally held on the east lawn of the Elkhart County Courthouse Saturday afternoon.

In addition to Dreamers sharing their stories, Saturday’s event also featured representatives from numerous community organizations such as Goshen College, St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, the Center for Healing and Hope and La Casa de Amistad, all in attendance to voice their support for local immigrants and denounce the recent decision by the Trump administration to phase out the DACA program.

DACA was established in 2012 by then-President Barack Obama via executive action. The DACA program allows undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children to work, attend school and live in the country subject to federal background checks and a two-year

renewal.

Since the program's creation, almost 1 million Dreamers have been able to attend college, obtain higher-paying jobs, contribute to the economy, buy property and pursue successful careers due to the opportunities the program afforded them.

On Tuesday, U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced the Trump administration's decision to phase out the program by March of 2018, a move which effectively leaves Dreamers vulnerable to deportation.

"So today we're bringing the community together, including immigrant families, Dreamers and friends and family who are affected by Trump's recent policy calling for the end of DACA," said Marbella Chavez, an Elkhart resident and daughter of immigrants who helped organize Saturday's event. "We want to inform the community that we're all in this together. We want to inform allies of different organizations that are here in the community so if they want to get involved and make change they can get involved. We're also informing Dreamers and immigrant families what resources they have in our area. There are a lot of leaders and local representatives from different organizations here that will be speaking on behalf of their organizations to inform the crowd of these resources. So it's just a big call to action."

During her time at the podium, Salgado spoke of all the doors the DACA program opened for her, allowing her to secure a driver's license and a Social Security card, which in turn allowed her to go to college, get a degree and become the teacher she had always hoped to be.

"I decided to go to college because I wanted to make a difference in my community. And even though I knew that after graduation I wouldn't be able to become a teacher because I wasn't a citizen, I wanted to be prepared for the future in case something happened," Salgado said.

"Thankfully, in 2012, something did happen. President Obama was gracious enough to provide this wonderful opportunity called DACA, and ever since then I knew that my life would drastically change. So in 2014, I graduated from Goshen College, and I was finally able to be a teacher. Without that, I would probably be stuck working at a factory, because you need a Social Security number to be a teacher."

Currently teaching Environmental Science and Biology for Elkhart Community Schools, Salgado said she is proud to serve as a roll model for her students and to share her contributions and achievements with her community.

“I love what I do, and I feel like I have contributed a lot to my community and to this country,” Salgado said to cheers from the crowd. “I feel like I am worthy of being a U.S. citizen. Unfortunately, though, I do not have a path of becoming a citizen. I feel that I and other Dreamers are human beings who have contributed so much, and deserve a chance to be a citizen. And I thank you guys for coming here and for showing your support, because I hope that Congress and the president realizes our worth and realize how much we can give back. This is our country. We’ve been here for a long time. This is my home, and I am here to stay.”

Rodriguez, a graduate of Southwestern Michigan College currently working in the banking industry, spoke of the hardships inherent in growing up an undocumented youth, and the weight that lifted once the DACA program was established.

“My sophomore year was when it hit me really hard that I wasn’t like my other classmates,” Rodriguez said of his high school years. “I wasn’t able to have a driver’s license and drive. It’s little things like that that I think most American’s take for granted. But thanks to Obama, about four years ago I was able to start my career as a banker.”

Faced with the potential end of a program that has done so much for him and his fellow Dreamers, Rodriguez pleaded with the assembled crowd to stand up and take action.

“You can also call your representatives and email them. Please do. We have to speak up,” he said. “And in the meantime, please, don’t be afraid, stand out, tell your story. There are so many of us out there. We have to share our stories. We’re not alone. We can’t go back to the shadows.”

Also on hand Saturday to answer some of the “what if’s” surrounding what’s next for DACA recipients was local lawyer and La Casa de Amistad representative Rudy Monterrosa.

“For those of you who have DACA, so long as you have DACA, that status is still valid until the point when that authorization expires,” Monterrosa told the crowd. “The second point I wanted to mention to you is, you can also still have that DACA renewed one last time. The third point is, unfortunately, for the time being, there are no new initial applications that will be accepted.”

Monterrosa also noted that under the U.S. Constitution, anyone currently residing in the country is considered a person, and thus has certain protections.

“Because you’re a person, regardless of race, color, or creed, you’re protected by the United States Constitution,” Monterrosa said. “That means that you have a right to remain silent, you have a right to due process, and you have a right to be secure within your own homes. Regardless of status, everybody has those rights.”

In concluding his speech, Monterrosa echoed Rodriguez’s call to action, encouraging the crowd to contact their representatives, take a stand against DACA’s elimination, and continue to push for comprehensive immigration reform.

“For all of us, we must push our representatives, our congressmen, our congresswomen, our senators, everybody,” Monterrosa said. “We need to push them to pass the DREAM Act now. The work starts this week. It’s a wakeup call. It’s a call to advocacy. It’s a call to not let down those who we ourselves have inspired. We told them that this was the land of opportunity, that if you work hard, you can achieve your American Dream. Let’s make it a reality.”

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Sep 15, 2017

What I find most interesting is the all out BLITZ by the Democrats, MSM, every faculty member at any university in the country are fighting to the death for illegal aliens. There is an estimated 800,000 DACA recipients in the US. That is 800,000 jobs American Citizens don't have. The MSM and Democrats would have you believe that all 800 thousand are not taking jobs Americans want (we've heard that speech for many years). This is another falsehood told to the American people (like their just 'Kids'). They're not all picking strawberries they take good Jobs. Good enough jobs to buy homes, put their kids through college Why must the citizens have competition for jobs, education in their own country from foreign nationals?

Now Democrats and illegal alien activists admit DACA recipients have good jobs, are buying homes, paying taxes, etc. The GOAL (Democrats just haven't figured this out yet) is for the American citizens to be employed, trained, sending their kids to college, buying homes and paying taxes. It's not the responsibility of the citizens of this country to support, educate citizens from other country's. There is also the public safety concerns with illegal aliens including DACA recipients. The bottom line is there should be ZERO illegal aliens in our country. Deportation will save jobs and decrease the expense of illegal aliens.

These facts can easily be found on the internet by anyone.

\* The cost of educating illegal aliens children is staggering. From K-12 it costs taxpayers \$122,000 for EACH illegal alien. That is not even counting the FREE school lunches every day for 13 years.

\*2012 illegal aliens sent home \$62 BILLION in remittances back to their countries of origin. This is why Mexico is getting involved in our politics.

\*30% percent of all Federal Prison inmates are illegal aliens. Does not include local jails and State Prisons. At 21,000 per year expense per inmate in Federal Prison---do the math.

\* Using the Obama created program- DACA, 800,000 illegal aliens has funneled 800 THOUSAND jobs away from American Citizens.

\*\$17 Billion dollars a year is spent for education for the American-born children of illegal aliens, known as anchor babies.

\*\$3Million Dollars a DAY is spent to incarcerate illegal aliens, I repeat 3 MILLION a DAY to process Illegals in the Criminal justice system.

\*\$2.2Billion dollars a year is spent on food assistance programs such as SNAP (food stamps), WIC, & free school lunches for illegal aliens.

<http://www.breitbart.com/texas/2017/08/02/dreamer-accused-raping-woman-sanctuary-city/>

<http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/08/02/dreamer-accused-brutally-raping-woman-in-washington.html>

<http://www.wnd.com/2017/07/big-list-of-86-horrific-illegal-alien-crimes/>

<http://www.illegalalienreport.com/>

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**goruri**

Sep 15, 2017

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WED 28	<b>Preschool Pals</b>					Youth Department   Shelbyville, IN	WED 28	<b>Preschool Pals</b>					Youth Department   Shelbyville, IN
WED 28	<b>Makerspace: Attack the Fort! (Gr. ...</b>					Fayette County Lib...   Connersville, IN	WED 28	<b>Makerspace: Attack the Fort! (Gr. ...</b>					Fayette County Lib...   Connersville, IN
WED 28	<b>K-2 Book Club</b>					Shelby County Publ...   Shelbyville, IN	WED 28	<b>K-2 Book Club</b>					Shelby County Publ...   Shelbyville, IN
	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON		WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON
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