



Adopted: October 3rd, 2017

**CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER, MARYLAND
RESOLUTION NO. 11-2017**

Introduced by: Councilmember Celina Benitez

Support of the Federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status Programs

A RESOLUTION for the purpose of calling on Congress to protect the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and reject any initiatives that will separate immigrant families;

WHEREAS: The City of Mount Rainier is committed to and maintains a long history of supporting, celebrating, and empowering immigrants and refugees, many of whom are escaping war and natural disasters, regardless of their immigration status; and

WHEREAS: Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is a form of immigration status created by Congress in 1990 that provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for foreign nationals who cannot safely return to their home countries; and

WHEREAS: In light of the Trump Administration's radical increase of anti-immigrant enforcement through executive orders, funding requests, and policy guidance, the continued existence of TPS is very much at risk; and

WHEREAS: The Trump Administration is currently deciding whether to terminate the Temporary Protected status for all current TPS holders, more than 434,588 people including 263,000 people from El Salvador, the source country of the largest number of immigrants in the region; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that ending TPS for immigrants from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti would result in a more than \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare Contributions over a decade, and the deportation of these individuals would cost taxpayers more than \$3.1 Billion Dollars; TPS holders are home and Business owners, in outstanding legal standing and

WHEREAS: TPS holders have significantly high levels of labor force participation: 94.0% of men and 82.1% are working, with 83.3% of men and 54.9% of women working more than 40 hours per week; and

WHEREAS: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA or Dreamers) is a form of immigration status for young immigrants who were brought to the United States at a young age, are attending school or have successfully completed their education, and successfully passed background checks. The program has



allowed young immigrants to work and study and has protected them from deportation; and

WHEREAS: DACA has been a resounding success. Nearly 800,000 young men and women have been able to contribute to their communities, to work, go to school and to live their lives without fear of being ripped away from their families and from a country they consider home; and

WHEREAS: Maryland has over 9,700 Dreamers who have deep roots throughout the state, including in the City of Mount Rainier, and if immigrant with DACA status are not provided with an alternate option to legalize their status, Maryland will lose more than \$500 million annually in Gross Domestic Product; and

WHEREAS: The City of Mount Rainier recognizes the overwhelmingly positive contribution that TPS holders and Dreamers have on our economy, social fabric, diversity and the well-being of our community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier, Maryland supports the Temporary Protected Status program and calls on the Department of Homeland Security to continue the TPS program and support refugees escaping war, natural disasters and crime; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier supports a permanent solution for TPS and DACA beneficiaries to obtain a legal permanent status with a pathway to citizenship and calls on Congress to expeditiously adopt legislation that would permanently legalize the status of DACA and TPS holders, and those that fulfill similar criteria, including a pathway to citizenship; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City of Mount Rainier urges all City residents and businesses to urge the Department of Homeland Security and Congress to protect TPS and DACA holders, **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to forward a suitably engrossed copy of this Resolution to the Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Maryland Senator Ben Cardin, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen, Congressman Anthony G. Brown, State Senator Victor Ramirez, County Councilmember Deni Taveras, and House Delegates from District 47A, Jimmy Tarlau and Diana M. Fennell, on behalf of the entire City Council.



THIS RESOLUTION IS ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MOUNT RAINIER THIS 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER, 2017.

Attest:

Miranda Braatz
Miranda Braatz, City Manager

Malinda Miles
Malinda Miles, Mayor

Celina Benitez
Celina Benitez, Councilmember Ward 1

Recused
Luke Chesek, Councilmember Ward 1

Recused
Bryan Knedler, Councilmember Ward 2

Shivali Shah
Shivali Shah, Councilmember Ward 2

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