



Courage, strength, and optimism: a message from our CEO, Raymon Cancino

In my America, we have always been a beacon of hope for immigrants searching for opportunity and a better life. Immigration has long been the infusion of change and the catalyst for diversity that invigorates the lifeblood of our nation. America is continually strengthened by immigrants' dreams, incomparable optimism, and courage to begin anew.

We know that the number of immigrants who have become significant contributors to our communities far eclipses those who have become burdens. My thoughts go to people like paramedic Jesus Contreras, or volunteer rescuer Alonso Guillen— Dreamers who willingly risked or lost their lives saving citizens in the wake of Hurricane Harvey in Texas.

With the stories of countless individuals like these in mind, it was with great disappointment that I heard of Tuesday's decision to dismantle the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

This act has allowed so many young people the opportunity to continue their education, come out of the shadows and begin the transition to becoming citizens. Education is one of the strongest weapons to combat poverty. By revoking this opportunity, we will do harm to our nation, and to the children and youth no longer protected by DACA, both now and in the future.

That is why I ask that you join us in communicating with congressional leaders locally and nationally—to ensure that they legislate a path toward citizenship for the child brought to America who had no choice in that decision. The Dreamers see our nation as their nation, they live as vibrant and active contributors to our communities, and they deserve the same opportunity to dream as so many of our immigrant ancestors did.

Immigration can be a controversial issue, but this part of the story is bigger than that. This is about opposing the decision to revoke DACA to protect our children, our children's friends, our neighbors, and the families we see at church. It is about protecting our community: a shared value we all hold. This is about ensuring the American dream is alive for this generation, and that we as a community come together to support the future of our nation.

I urge you to read this [Huffington Post article](#) for a few ways to speak out in support of the opportunities DACA provides.

Let's continue to build bridges across divides.

In community,

Raymon Cancino