



**News Release:** September 27, 2017

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## **Snohomish County Passes Joint Resolution Supporting Extension of DACA Program and Permanent Status for Dreamers**

On Monday, September 25, 2017, the Snohomish County Council passed a joint resolution along with the County Executive supporting the extension of the DACA program and permanent legal status for dreamers. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provides employment authorization and protection from deportation for undocumented immigrants who entered the United States before they turned 16 and benefits 4,000 eligible people in Snohomish County and 43,000 in Washington State.

“Snohomish County is unanimous in its commitment to supporting members of all communities,” added Councilmember Sullivan. “It is absolutely critical that congress does its job – recognize the contributions of dreamers to our country by making their legal status permanent with a path to citizenship – and ending the cruel uncertainty they are now living with every day.”

“We recognize the many contributions to our country, culture, and communities by these young people,” said Vice-Chair Stephanie Wright. “This also serves to acknowledge how we have all benefitted from being a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community. We urge Congress to find a permanent solution.”

“I am very proud to stand with Dreamers, especially the 4,000 Dreamers that reside in Snohomish County,” said Dave Somers, Snohomish County Executive. “Dreamers contribute to America by participating in the work force, paying into programs such as Social Security and Medicare, serving in the Armed Forces, starting businesses, and raising their families. They enrich and strengthen our schools, businesses, places of worship, culture, families, and communities. I urge Congress to find a resolution for our Dreamers.”

DACA is good for our nation’s economy with eighty-seven percent of DACA recipients employed by American businesses, contributing 15.3 percent of their wages to taxes, and six percent of DACA recipients having started their own business, leading to higher wages and better economic outcomes.

“Congress should view this as an opportunity to fix a problem,” said Councilmember Terry Ryan.

Added Councilmember Nate Nehring, "I am happy to join my fellow County Councilmembers in demanding that Congress do its job and address this critical immigration issue."

"DACA program recipients are our friends, family and young leaders in our community," said Carin Chase, Chair of the Snohomish County Human Rights Committee. "Protecting immigrants brought to the United States as children by providing opportunity for education and participation celebrates the diverse tapestry of our county."

Snohomish County urges Congress to demonstrate their commitment to the American economy and the ideals of our nation by continuing DACA until we can modernize our immigration system and provide a more permanent form of relief for these individuals.