

MIRA! Mississippi Immigrants Rights Alliance

P.O. Box 1104, Jackson, MS 39215-1104

Main Office: 601-968-5182, Fax: 601-968-5183; South Mississippi Field Office: 228-386-5164,

Legal Project: 601-354-9355;

June 23, 2016

For Immediate Release

The US Supreme Court Decision Means a Massive Fight Back!

Contact: 601-968-5182 Bill Chandler, Director, x2

Melinda Medina, Organizer, x4

Today, the United States Supreme Court issued a 4-4 decision in United States v. Texas, the case challenging expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). This means that the Fifth Circuit's decision upholding the preliminary injunction against these initiatives will stand. This ruling does not affect the original DACA program launched in 2012.

The principal argument used by the state of Texas that it would cost the state millions to test and provide driver's licenses for applicants should the programs be implemented. "This is simply another case of 'state's rights versus human rights,' said Bill Chandler, Director for the Mississippi Immigrant's Rights Alliance. "Clearly the motivation for Republicans in the US Senate to refuse to consider the President's Supreme Court nomination was a racist move designed to prevent an affirmative decision in this case." Mississippi was among the states, all with Republican governors who joined the anti-immigrant law suit.

This is a huge disappointment for immigrant families, their communities and their allies. Mississippi has some 200,000 Latinos, many of them immigrants along with significant numbers of immigrants from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Mideast. Many are undocumented. While today's misguided outcome is deeply disappointing, we will continue to fight locally and nationally until every member of our communities can live in dignity without fear of being separated from their families. We must hold the Republican (and Democrat) anti-immigrant politicians responsible for this attack against families accountable.

The stakes are now even greater for the November elections as the next president will have the opportunity to appoint several Supreme Court justices in their first term, shaping our country's future for decades to come. Congress must be persuaded to enact fair and just immigration reform based on workers' and human rights. Along with our sister organizations across the country, MIRA will organize and fight for these basic human rights.