



La Sociedad Protección Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos
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The Oldest Active Hispanic Organization in the US since 1900
Statement on DACA and US Immigration Policy

The SPMDTU was founded “to help workers during times of unemployment, illness, and injuries at work; to assist widows and orphans in the event of member’s death; and importantly, to unite the working class against discrimination in the modern industries emerging in the region” (SPMDTU, *Preámbulo* of 1911). Its members also “show personal humility, compassion, and mercy; help fellow members during times of illness or other misfortunes; and promote the community’s welfare” (*La Sociedad*, 2010, p. 50).

SPMDTU supports Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”). These individuals, commonly referred to as “Dreamers,” were brought here as children and because of the extended time they have resided in this country, are an important part of the American fabric. These individuals are essentially, already American citizens. They deserve a process for obtaining legal status that does not require having to leave this country and does not implicate other members of their families for prosecution. We urge Congress to work with the President and quickly pass bipartisan legislation that would enable Dreamers to earn lawful permanent status, and eventually, earn American citizenship if they meet the criteria.

SPMDTU, as a basic tenant of its Constitution and Bylaws, is to support the laws of the United States of America, and consequently, SPMDTU does in no way condone illegal immigration into the United States of America. However, there are already currently residing in this country approximately 11,000,000 undocumented immigrants and SPMDTU supports dealing with these immigrants in a logical, fair and compassionate manner. In adherence to this tenant, SPMDTU believes that any undocumented immigrants currently residing in the United States of America, take steps to begin the process of obtaining legal status, whether it be as a temporary resident, a permanent resident, or as a citizen of the United States of America. This can only take place upon this country not forcing undocumented immigrants already residing here to leave the country; not using the application process as a means to implicate other undocumented immigrants for purposes of prosecution; and streamlining the process for obtaining legal status so it can be completed in a reasonable amount of time.

SPMDTU believes that all persons residing in the United States of America are equal under the law, are entitled to due process under the law, and that the laws of this country should be administered equally to all peoples, regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

SPMDTU is against any laws, the interpretation and enforcement of said laws, that is based upon any level of racial profiling.

SPMDTU considers that there is no consistency in the immigration laws of this country and the administration and enforcement of said laws. The vagaries and breakdown of immigration policy in this country has led to the current situation whereby so many immigrants living in this country are here as undocumented immigrants and are prohibited by the interpretation and administration of this country's immigration policies to seek legal status.

SPMDTU believes that the bureaucratic process to legally enter into and reside in this country is unrealistically complicated and that the time it takes to be approved for legal entry into the country is ridiculously too long.

SPMDTU is strongly against the compilation of information through the application process that leads to the identification and prosecution of other individuals regardless of their immigration status.

SPMDTU is against any mass deportations of immigrants currently residing in this country. For these individuals, the process to seek and obtain legal status should be made available to be completed while residing in this country.

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