No. 23-40653

## UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

STATE OF TEXAS; STATE OF ALABAMA; STATE OF ARKANSAS; STATE OF LOUISIANA; STATE OF NEBRASKA; STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA; STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA; STATE OF KANSAS; STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, *Plaintiffs-Appellees*,

V.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; ALEJANDRO MAYORKAS, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY; TROY MILLER, SENIOR OFFICIAL PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE COMMISSIONER, U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION; PATRICK J. LECHLEITNER, ACTING DIRECTOR OF U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT; UR M. JADDOU, DIRECTOR OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES; JASON D. OWENS, CHIEF OF THE U.S. BORDER PATROL,

Defendants-Appellants,

MARIA ROCHA; JOSE MAGANA-SALGADO; NANCI J. PALACIOS GODINEZ; ELLY MARISOL ESTRADA; KARINA RUIS DE DIAZ; CARLOS AGUILAR GONZALEZ; LUIS A. RAFAEL; DARWIN VELASQUEZ; JIN PARK; OSCAR ALVAREZ; DENISE ROMERO; JUNG WOO KIM; ANGEL SILVA; HYO-WON JEON; ELIZABETH DIAZ; BLANCA GONZALEZ; MOSES KAMAU CHEGE; MARIA DIAZ,

Intervenor Defendants-Appellants,

#### STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Intervenor-Appellant,

On Appeal from the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas
No. 1:18-cy-00068

BRIEF FOR THE PRESIDENTS' ALLIANCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND IMMIGRATION AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS-APPELLANTS AND REVERSAL

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES**

Pursuant to Fifth Circuit Rule 29.2, the undersigned counsel of record certifies that, in addition to those already listed in the parties' briefs, the following listed persons and entities as described in the fourth sentence of Rule 28.2.1 have an interest in the outcome of this case. These representations are made in order that the judges of this court may evaluate possible disqualification or recusal.

Amicus: Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration.

Counsel for Amicus: David J. Zimmer and Jonathan E. Rankin, both of Goodwin Procter LLP.

/s/ David J. Zimmer

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#### INTEREST OF AMICUS CURIAE<sup>1</sup>

Amicus curiae, the Presidents' Alliance on Higher Education and Immigration (Presidents' Alliance), is an alliance of over 550 presidents and chancellors of higher education institutions nationwide that have joined together to advocate forwardlooking immigration policies and practices that will benefit our students, our institutions, and our country. The Presidents' Alliance regularly collaborates with TheDream.US, a leading college and career success program for undocumented youth. Our members lead every type of higher education institution, from private universities and colleges to large public universities to community colleges. Our member institutions are currently educating approximately five million of the approximately eighteen million post-secondary students in the United States.<sup>2</sup> They have graduated thousands of dreamers, many of whom go on to work in higher education, including at Presidents' Alliance's members. They can therefore attest to DACA recipients' successes in college and beyond.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All parties have consented to the filing of this brief. Neither party's counsel authored this brief in whole or in part, and no one other than amicus, its members, or its counsel contributed money to fund the preparation or submission of this brief.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> *Membership*, Presidents' All. on Higher Educ. & Immigr., https://www.presidentsalliance.org/about/membership-benefits/ (last visited Jan. 30, 2024); *see* Rsch. Ctr., Nat'l Student Clearinghouse, *Current Term Enrollment Estimates: Fall 2023* data app. (2024), https://nscresearchcenter.org/current-term-enrollment-estimates/.

The Presidents' Alliance operates the Higher Ed Immigration Portal, a robust platform that integrates data, policy analysis, and resources to support immigrant students. Over thirty partner organizations contribute to the Portal, making it an important tool for researchers and policymakers. This unique perspective enables the Presidents' Alliance to educate the public and policymakers about the value of immigrant students in higher education—on campuses, in our communities, and to the nation.

The following 168 institutions and organizations have specifically chosen to support the DACA program by supporting the Presidents' Alliance in the filing of this brief:

Agnes Scott College Aliento Education Fund

Amherst College Antioch College

Arizona State University

Arrupe College of Loyola University Chicago

Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities

Augsburg University

Augustana College

Bard College

Barnard College

Bates College

Bentley University

Borough of Manhattan Community College

**Boston University** 

Bowdoin College

Breakthrough Central Texas

Bryn Mawr College

Cape Cod Community College

Carleton College

Carnegie Mellon University

CCCU—Council for Christian Colleges & Universities

Central Connecticut State University

Central Washington University

Charter Oak State College

Christian Brothers University

Clark University

Colby College

College of Saint Mary

College Track

Colorado Community College System

Colorado Mountain College

Colorado State University with CSU Fort Collins, CSU Pueblo, and CSU Global

Connecticut College

Contra Costa Community College District

Cornell University

**CUNY Baruch College** 

Delaware State University

DePauw University

**Dominican University** 

Donnelly College

Dreamer Fund

**Drexel University** 

Eastern Connecticut State University

Eastern Michigan University

Eastern Oregon University

Emerson College

EnglishUSA

Farmingdale State College (SUNY)

Foothill-De Anza Community College District

Fordham University

Franklin & Marshall College

Golden Door Scholars

Goucher College

Grand Valley State University

Great Basin College

Hamilton College

Haverford College

Illinois Institute of Technology

**Immigrants Rising** 

**ImmSchools** 

Ithaca College

**Knox College** 

Lamar Community College

Loyola Marymount University

Macalester College

Marymount University

Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts

Menlo College

Metropolitan State University of Denver

Mi CASA MN

Montgomery College

Mount Holyoke College

Nevada State University

Northeastern University

Northern Arizona University

Northern Essex Community College

Northern Illinois University

Northern New Mexico College

Notre Dame de Namur University

Oglethorpe University

Oregon State University

Pace University

Palo Alto University

Paul Quinn College

Phoenix College

Pomona College

Providence College

Pueblo Community College

Rancho Santiago Community College District

Reed College

Refugee & Migrant Education Network

Relay Graduate School of Education

Rhodes College

Rice University

Riverside Community College District

Rochester Institute of Technology

Roosevelt University

Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Rutgers University-Newark

Salem State University

Salt Lake Community College

Salve Regina University

San Bernardino Valley College

San Jose City College

Santa Clara University

Sarah Lawrence College

School of Visual Arts

Smith College

Soka University of America

Southern Connecticut State University

Southern New Hampshire University

Southern Oregon University

St. Olaf College

State Center Community College District

Suffolk University

SUNY Westchester Community College

Swarthmore College

Teach For America

The Chicago School

The City University of New York—Initiative on Immigration and Education

The Education Trust

The Evergreen State College

The New School

The President & Fellows of Middlebury College

The Regents of the University of California

The University of Connecticut

TheDream.US, a fiscally sponsored project of New Venture Fund

Trinity College

Trinity Washington University

Truckee Meadows Community College

Trustees of the California State University

Tufts University

University at Albany

University of Colorado System—Boulder, Colorado Springs, Denver, and Anschutz

Medical Campus

University of Dayton

University of Denver

University of Hawai'i System

University of Illinois Chicago University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign University of La Verne University of Maryland, Baltimore University of Massachusetts, Boston University of Nevada, Las Vegas University of Nevada, Reno University of Oregon University of Redlands University of Rochester University of San Francisco University of Southern California University of St. Francis University of the District of Columbia University of Utah University of Washington University System of Maryland UT with All Immigrants Vassar College Virginia Wesleyan University Washington State University Wellesley College Wesleyan University Western Nevada College Western Oregon University Western Washington University Whitman College Williams College Wingate University

These institutions represent the diverse landscape of contemporary higher education. They are educating millions of students across thirty-two states and the District of Columbia in every kind of postsecondary setting. They include state university systems, leading research institutions, Hispanic-serving institutions, historically Black colleges and universities, faith-based institutions, private

institutions, and community colleges. This comprehensive group of institutions demonstrates the important role immigrant students play in every kind of postsecondary setting and attests to the sector expertise represented in this brief.

#### INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF ARGUMENT

Amicus, through its own work and that of its member institutions and partner organizations, has a unique perspective on the impact DACA has had on the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people since DACA began twelve years ago. DACA recipients have attended higher education institutions in enormous numbers—institutions ranging from small private colleges and universities to large public universities to community colleges. Many of those institutions are members of the Presidents' Alliance. As DACA recipients have gotten older, graduated from school, entered the workforce, and started families, evidence from the Presidents' Alliance and others is beginning to emerge about the enormous and positive impact these individuals have—on their employers, their families, and the U.S. economy as a whole.

The Presidents' Alliance submits this brief to help the Court understand the extent to which crucial sectors of our economy and hundreds of thousands of American families have come to depend on DACA generally, and its work authorization component in particular. The brief first sets forth the data showing how DACA recipients entering the workforce after college tend to match or

outperform their peers on key metrics and contribute to crucial sectors of our economy—including sectors that are suffering from chronic labor shortages. The brief then explains data showing the extent to which DACA recipients provide, through their work, crucial support for their families, including both children and parents. Because of this, the brief explains, ending DACA—and, in particular its work authorization program—would be a significant blow to the U.S. economy and have a devastating impact on hundreds of thousands of families.

#### **ARGUMENT**

I. DACA recipients graduating from college match or outperform their peers on key metrics and are making significant contributions to the most important sectors of our economy.

Hundreds of thousands of DACA recipients have attended and, in recent years, graduated from higher education institutions. There are approximately 343,000 DACA recipients working essential jobs.<sup>3</sup> Data from TheDream.US, Presidents' Alliance, and others is beginning to show just how successful those DACA graduates have been, and how big an impact they are having on our economy.

First, data collected by TheDream.US show that DACA recipients graduating from college match—if not exceed—the success of other college graduates in this country. A recent survey by TheDream.US of over 1,400 undocumented college

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> TheDream.US, In Their Own Words 5 (2022), https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/TheDreamUS-GDS-Alumni\_Survey\_Report\_2022-FINAL.pdf.

graduates, the vast majority of whom are enrolled in DACA, reported that *ninety-four percent* of the undocumented graduates were employed or in graduate school, compared to eighty-four percent of college graduates generally.<sup>4</sup>

Second, data from that same TheDream.US survey show that DACA recipients graduating from college are contributing to our economy in crucial ways. The survey shows that the most common field in which DACA graduates work is healthcare and medicine, with education only slightly behind.<sup>5</sup> These are not just important sectors of our economy, but sectors facing dire labor shortages: The shortage in the healthcare sector is estimated to be greater than *three million* people, and approximately nine out of ten public school districts report struggling to hire teachers.<sup>6</sup> Removing DACA recipients from the workforce would only exacerbate these labor shortages.

Data collected by TheDream.US and others also show that other DACA recipients graduating from college are providing highly skilled labor across all

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> *Id*. at 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 5 (reporting twenty-two percent of respondents were employed in health and medicine and eighteen percent were employed in education).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *E.g.*, Tanner Bateman et al., Mercer, US Healthcare Labor Market 4 (2021) (finding the number of workers leaving healthcare far exceeds the number entering, while demand continues to grow); Zachary Schermele, *Teacher Shortages Continue to Plague US: 86% of Public Schools Struggle to Hire Educators*, USA Today (Oct. 17, 2023), https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2023/10/17/teacher-shortage-2023-us-schools-struggle-hiring/71208579007/.

sectors of our economy. Many undocumented graduates go on to get master's degrees, PhDs, MDs, JDs, and more. Nearly twenty percent of the 141,000 DACA-eligible higher education students are enrolled in a graduate or professional program.<sup>7</sup> The Path2Papers Project, which recently began at Cornell Law School, identified DACA recipients serving in roles ranging from emergency medicine doctors and oncologists to structural engineers to public school teachers to reporters to software engineers. Another report explained how DACA recipients graduating from college hold important jobs at some of the country's most innovative companies, including Amazon, Apple, Bank of America, FedEx, IBM, JP Morgan Chase & Co., Labcorp, Microsoft, and Northwell Health.<sup>8</sup>

Amicus's members have also benefited directly from the hard work and expertise brought by DACA recipients. Our member institutions employ thousands of DACA recipients at all levels of our institutions: By serving as faculty, researchers, engineers, doctors, nurses, counselors, government relations officers, and as staff in student affairs, academic affairs, academic departments, admissions, alumni relations, and other divisions, DACA recipients have become key players in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Am. Immigr. Council & Presidents' All. on Higher Educ. & Immigr., Undocumented Students in Higher Education 8 (2023), https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/07.23-Undocumented-Students\_v3.pdf.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> TheDream.US, *supra* note 3, at 3.

helping our institutions operate—just as they have become key to the U.S. economy as a whole.

# II. DACA recipients achieve social mobility and support their children and, in many cases, their parents and other family members.

Nearly a century ago, James Truslow Adams coined the phrase the "American Dream," writing that the spirit of America has comprised the "dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement." The experience of DACA recipients shows just how powerful that dream can still be. Through their hard work at school and, after graduation, in the workforce, DACA recipients have created lives for themselves and their families that never would have been possible without DACA's work authorization component.

DACA recipients who have graduated from college have shown remarkable social mobility. Of the undocumented graduates questioned in one survey, *fifty percent* were outearning their parents' *combined* incomes.<sup>10</sup> The majority of those surveyed were the first person in their families not only to graduate college but also to reach a host of milestones that define the American middle class, like buying a car or having health insurance.<sup>11</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> James Truslow Adams, The Epic of America 404 (1931).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> TheDream.US, *supra* note 3, at 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> See id. (describing one student's journey).

These DACA recipients' work is crucial to supporting their families. There are approximately 300,000 U.S.-citizen children being raised by DACA recipients. <sup>12</sup> Sixty-one percent of those surveyed have at least one family member depending on their income, and one in five of the graduates surveyed are their family's primary provider. <sup>13</sup> And, of course, DACA-recipient parents provide not just economic but emotional support to their U.S.-citizen children, which is crucial both for their day-to-day happiness and also their health outcomes. <sup>14</sup> All of this financial and emotional support depends on DACA and, in particular, its work authorization component.

The net result is that an enormous number of people beyond the DACA recipients themselves have come, over the last twelve years, to rely on DACA's work authorization component. Many DACA recipients have graduated college and are now well into their thirties, with homes, stable careers, and U.S.-citizen spouses, children, and other relatives who depend on their continued ability to work. Terminating DACA would upend the lives of all of these families.

<sup>12</sup> *Id*. at 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> *Id.* at 8-9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> See Osea Giuntella & Jakub Lonsky, IZA Inst. of Lab. Econ., The Effects of DACA on Health Insurace, Access to Care, and Health Outcomes 12 (2018) (describing the mental-health benefits DACA provides its recipients).

## III. DACA's end would be a blow to higher education institutions of all types as well as their students and graduates.

For the last twelve years, higher education institutions across the country—from small private colleges to private research universities to private religious schools to large public universities to community colleges—have welcomed DACA recipients and invested heavily in training them and positioning them to make meaningful contributions to all sectors of the U.S. workforce and economy. As discussed above, those efforts have paid off, and DACA recipients—including many thousands of college graduates—are now fully embedded in our society, economy and communities. To now end DACA, and particularly its work authorization component, would be a devastating blow to the U.S. economy as a whole, as well as all types of higher education institutions and their students and graduates.

DACA's end would leave the U.S. economy bereft of a particularly valuable pool of labor. As discussed above, DACA recipients are, upon graduating from college, filling roles that are not otherwise being filled in sectors like healthcare and education. Moreover, many DACA recipients are bilingual and multiligual, speaking English as well as Spanish, Korean, Mandarin, and dozens of other languages. Research has repeatedly shown that bi- and multilingual individuals are highly sought-after employees who earn two to three thousand more dollars annually

than their single-language peers. <sup>15</sup> DACA recipients are *already* paying \$9.4 billion in taxes every year, <sup>16</sup> and DHS estimates that halting DACA renewals would cost the U.S economy over \$400 billion over the course of the next two decades. <sup>17</sup> Denying DACA recipients removal protection and work authorization would open the spigot for "brain drain"—instead of contributing to the U.S. economy, these graduates may well end up taking their skilled labor elsewhere. <sup>18</sup> Losing this important piece of our "capable workforce" threatens national security interests—hampering the nation's "ability to be competitive and defend itself." <sup>19</sup> Troublingly,

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> See Lorna Porter et al., UCLA C.R. Project, Bilingual Education and America's Future: Evidence and Pathways 27–28 (2023), https://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/k-12-education/language-minority-students/bilingual-education-and-americas-future-evidence-and-pathways/bilingual-biliteracy-ed\_06132023-082923-copyright.pdf (surveying the scholarly literature).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> TheDream.US, *supra* note 3, at 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, 87 Fed. Reg. 53,265 tbl. 5 (Aug. 30, 2022). Other experts have arrived at similar estimates. *See, e.g.*, Phillip Connor, *A DACA Fix Could Add \$400 Billion to the U.S. Economy in the Next 10 Years*, fwd.us (Dec. 5, 2022), https://www.fwd.us/news/daca-fix/; Logan Albright et al., *A New Estimate of the Cost of Reversing DACA* 8 (CATO Institute, Working Paper No. 49, 2018) (estimating a reversal of DACA would cost \$351 billion).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> See Patti Ghezzi, *Immigration Restrictions Fuel Reverse Brain Drain*, Emory Lawyer, Spring 2018, at 11, 12 (discussing the challenges American businesses face in retaining skilled labor).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> See Margaret Stock & Theresa Cardinal Brown, Council on Nat'l Sec. & Immigr., Meeting National Security Interests Requires Workers 1 (2023), https://www.cnsiusa.org/\_files/ugd/5b8edc\_d60882d303b04b3d884394f1e3d192cd.pdf.

uncertainty concerning legal status has already led some DACA recipients to leave, including those who graduated from college in the United States.<sup>20</sup>

Amicus's members and partners, and their students and graduates, too, have come to rely on DACA. DACA recipients have made significant contributions as students to colleges across the country. Donna Carrol, president of Dominican University, even credits Dominican's "rise in the US News and World Report rankings from 19th to 11th of 165 Midwest Regional Universities in large part to the strong academic performance and persistence of [its] many undocumented students." Other member colleges and universities also report that DACA-recipient students bring diverse perspectives and life experiences to campus, enriching the educational experience for all students. And DACA recipients regularly run clubs on campus like the honor society and are elected by their peers to student government groups.

Those DACA recipients also continue to positively impact *amicus*'s members even after graduation. Colleges and universities rely on their alumni to provide

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> See Devin Dwyer et al., DACA Recipients Leaving US, Disheartened by Legal Limbo, ABC News (Mar. 7, 2023), https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/daca-recipients-leaving-us-disheartened-legal-limbo/story?id=97300896 (reporting the stories of many dreamers, including college graduates, who have left or are planning to leave the country due to legal uncertainty).

TheDream.US, Meet TheDream.US Scholars 10 (2018), https://www.thedream.us/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/TheDream.US-2018-Progress-Report-2-21-19-Digital-Final.pdf.

ongoing support through mentorship of current students, donations, and cultivation of reputational good will. Without DACA, schools who have invested heavily in educating DACA recipients—many of whom are now social and economic cornerstones in their neighborhoods, cities, and states—will no longer be able to count on this important resource. And, as discussed above, many thousands of DACA recipients who graduated college are working to support children and parents; losing work authorization would be devastating to those families.

#### **CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, *amicus*'s member institutions and partner organizations, as well as *amicus*'s members' students and graduates, would be significantly harmed by DACA's end. Research shows their DACA-recipient graduates make substantial economic and social contributions. These schools, and the nation at large, should not be deprived of those contributions—before, during, and after their time on campus.

Dated: February 1, 2024 Respectfully submitted,

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**CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE** 

I certify that this brief complies with the requirements of Federal Rule of

Appellate Procedure 29(a)(5) because it contains 3,028 words, not including the

items excluded by Federal Rule of Appellate Procedure 32(f), according to the

count of Microsoft Word. I further certify that this brief complies with typeface

and style requirements of Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure 32(a)(5) and

32(a)(6) because it has been prepared in Microsoft Word using 14-point Times

New Roman font.

Dated: February 1, 2024

/s/ David J. Zimmer

David J. Zimmer

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

I certify that I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court

for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit by using the appellate

CM/ECF system. I further certify that all participants in the case are registered

CM/ECF users and that service will be accomplished by the appellate CM/ECF

system.

/s/ David J. Zimmer

David J. Zimmer

Dated: February 1, 2024