



July 4... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

The Supreme Court deadlocked 4-4 on President Obama's controversial executive actions on immigration. The tie vote effectively kills two programs that would have allowed millions of undocumented immigrants to live and work in the U.S. by leaving in place a lower court injunction that blocks their implementation.

Who's Affected? It's not clear precisely how many people have been affected by the two programs, though DHS estimated that **4.9 million people** could have been eligible for temporary deportation relief. The 728,000 people who have received relief under the existing DACA program will not be affected by the Supreme Court's ruling.

Why did the Court Split? Justice Antonin Scalia's death in February left the court with only 8 justices. The bench is split between 4 Democratic and 4 Republican appointees, but the court published a one-sentence opinion that did not reveal which side each individual justice took. Anthony Kennedy, a typical swing voter, seemed to side with Texas and the 25 other states who sued the Administration to stop the programs. Senate Republicans have refused to hold hearings or a vote on Obama's Supreme Court nominee, Judge Merrick Garland, arguing that the next president should pick Scalia's successor. While it's impossible to predict how justices will decide cases, it's likely Obama would have received a favorable outcome had Garland been on the bench.

What Happens Now? If a 9th justice is confirmed before Obama leaves office, the Administration could ask the court to rehear its appeal on the nationwide injunction imposed by the lower courts. Meanwhile, the case returns to the federal court in Brownsville, TX to be argued on its merits. Texas is seeking a permanent injunction against the programs. If Judge Andrew Hanen, who issued the initial injunction, again sides with the states, the federal government could possibly appeal that decision, and it could eventually work its way back to the Supreme Court.

What do Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton want to do with the programs? The programs' chances of survival depend on who is elected president in the fall. Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, has praised Obama's initiatives and pledged to continue their legal defense if she's in the White House. She has even said she would "go further" than Obama has in using executive power if Congress fails to pass new immigration laws. "As president, I will continue to defend DAPA and DACA, and do everything possible under the law to go further to protect families," she said in a statement. Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee, has said he would do away with Obama's executive actions, and he expressed relief at the Supreme Court's tie vote. "SC has kept us safe from exec amnesty — for now. But Hillary has pledged to expand it, taking jobs from Hispanic & African-American workers," he tweeted. The Republican standard-bearer has pledged a nationwide crackdown on illegal immigration. He has said he would create a "deportation force" to remove most of the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and called for the construction of a giant wall along the nation's border with Mexico at its expense.

(Adapted from The Hill)

Action One: Prayer

Good and gracious God, we praise you for all that you have done and all that you will continue to do! We thank you at this time especially for the many freedoms we enjoy. We pray that our gratitude for our own freedoms ignites in us a passion to preserve the freedom of others. Help us be conscious that true freedom cannot come at

the cost of the freedom of others. We know, Lord, that true freedom only comes through you. And so we ask that you help us work for a society that upholds your freedom.

(Adapted from A Prayer for Freedom from Romero Center Ministries)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

President Obama: No Human Being is Illegal! <http://act.presente.org/sign/potus/?t=3&akid=1468.498104.Wmn25q>

Tell President Obama it's Time for a Moratorium on Deportations:

http://act.credoaction.com/sign/DAPA_Obama?t=2&akid=18660.8488121.MWgmE1

Tell Pres. Obama and DHS that if there's no DAPA then they should put a freeze on deportations:

<https://action.mijente.net/petitions/no-dapa-no-deportations/>

Sign the Dads Ask Dads Letter to Obama Asking them to Protect Fathers from Immoral Detention and Deportation: <http://ignatiansolidarity.net/fathers/>

Tell Congress to Restore the Voting Rights Act!

http://act.networklobby.org/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19069

Call the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111 and tell Pres. Obama to STOP the Raids!

Sample Script: "Hello, I am [your name] from [city, state, community] calling to urge President Obama STOP plans to deport Central American children and families. These individuals are fleeing horrific violence and should have access to due process and legal counsel so that they can apply for asylum and protection in the United States. We should not be traumatizing communities and sending mothers and children back to the dangers they fled."

Action Three: Education

Refugee Portrait Project: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HDxNxkt78_s

Rauner Signs Stop-Gap Budget: <http://chicago.suntimes.com/news/budget-bills-pass-illinois-house-amid-last-minute-drama/#.V3a6FoAaVlw.facebook>

Here's Why Atlanta is One of Worst Places to Be Undocumented: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/deportation-raids-immigration-courts_us_574378d9e4b0613b512b0f37

USCCB Migration Committee Public Statement on SCOTUS Decision: <http://www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-078.cfm>

There is Another Immigration Program That Needs Reworking: <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/36571-why-immigrant-parents-need-legal-protections-for-their-children>

Action Four: Events/Resources

JFI Webinar: SCOTUS ruling on DACA/DAPA and What's Next

Wednesday, July 6 at 1PM Central (Call in number: [1-800-446-1162](tel:1-800-446-1162); code: 106181)

Reform Immigration for America National Community Call: DAPA & DACA+, What's Next?

Wednesday, July 6 (English Call at 8pm ET; Spanish Call at 9pm ET)

Register here: <http://reformimmigrationforamerica.org/campaigns/sign-national-community-call-dapa-daca/>

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: Ask Pres Obama to protect dads from our country's immoral #immigration system #DontDeportMyDad <http://bit.ly/DadsAskDads>

Thank you for your efforts!