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NIPNLG: Texas Decision a Temporary Setback: Keep Eyes on the Prize

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BROWNSVILLE, TX - Yesterday, a federal district judge issued a preliminary injunction in Texas v. United States that temporarily blocks the implementation of the new deferred action initiatives announced last November. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) stated that it has suspended plans to accept requests for Expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). The injunction, however, does not affect the existing DACA program announced on June 15, 2012; under the original DACA criteria, individuals may continue to request initial DACA and renew. The order also does not impact the implementation of DHS’s enforcement priorities established in the November 20, 2014 memo, “Policies for the Apprehension, Detention and Removal of Undocumented Immigrants.” Individuals who are currently in removal proceedings, have a final order, or are in immigration detention remain able to request prosecutorial discretion.

The National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild (NIPNLG) views the preliminary injunction as a temporary setback. We remain confident that the courts will ultimately uphold the new deferred action initiatives, which will bring relief to millions of noncitizens who have worked and waited tirelessly for years to contribute more fully to U.S. society. In the meantime, we will continue to fight back against draconian measures that erode noncitizen rights; and work to ensure that individuals eligible for these new programs are not deported while awaiting a final court decision.

Please bookmark this page, and return to view our latest Advisory guiding legal practitioners seeking to advise their noncitizen clients during this waiting period.

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