

June 18, 2020

ASBMB statement on the Supreme Court's decision to uphold DACA

The following is a statement from Benjamin Corb, public affairs director for the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology:

“The American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology applauds the Supreme Court’s decision to reject the Trump administration’s attempt to dismantle the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The administration has attempted to end this vital program for more than two years, and these actions are damaging not only to the immigrants protected by DACA, but to the principles of diversity, inclusiveness, and openness that define the U.S. and the scientific community.

Ending DACA would have affected nearly 650,000 recipients of the program, commonly known as “Dreamers” (based upon never-passed proposals in Congress called the DREAM Act). “Dreamers” hugely contribute to the U.S economy, especially as scientists and health care workers fighting on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, nearly [30,000 of them](#) are in the health care industry.

The American research enterprise is dependent on attracting and nurturing the brightest minds from around the world, including those who have come or were brought to the U.S. for a chance at a better life. The DACA program not only protects these young immigrants from deportation, but it also retains a pool of highly talented and motivated students who strengthen scientific research and development. The American research enterprise must take advantage of this talent instead of excluding it.

The U.S. must be welcoming of immigrants and foreign workers. As a scientific society that represents more than 10,000 scientists throughout the world, the ASBMB is committed to diversity and inclusion of people from all backgrounds. Maintaining the DACA program is a necessary means to ensure the values of the scientific community are upheld.”