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WA STATE CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION SUPPORTS DACA STUDENTS AND UNDOCUMENTED SCHOOL STAFF

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In the wake of the recent DACA announcement, there is growing concern across the country as nearly a million people are uncertain which country they'll call home 6 months from now. Needless to say, it was not "learning as usual" in our WA charter public school sector, which serves many DACA children.

DACA (which stands for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) is a federal program that offers a work permit (for two years) and temporary protection from deportation to young adults who were brought to the United States illegally with their parents as children. The government's announcement will end those deportation protections.

"This intersection between immigration and education is having a real impact," said Joshua Halsey, Executive Director of the WA Charter School Commission. "The fears about uncertain futures are very real. But the Commission is committed to supporting DACA families throughout the sector, and ensuring that they feel protected, welcome and safe."

According to the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, the impact could affect as many as 40,000 youth in Washington. But it's not just students, as many teachers are DACA immigrants. The Commission remains committed to its mission and vision to foster innovation and ensure excellence so every student has access to and thrives in a high quality public school. "We are not just educators, but caretakers of our students and all those who are part of our school families. We're invested in their learning, their rights, their gifts and their dreams," said Steve Sundquist, Chair of the state's Charter School Commission.

We stand with our education partners across the state and the country in solidarity of urging legislators to craft compassionate legislation that spells out in no uncertain terms the path and the timeline to citizenship.

About Washington State’s Charter School Commission

Washington State’s Charter School Commission was formed with the mission of creating a rigorous and comprehensive proposal process and to hold charters accountable to high standards of quality. The Commission is an independent state agency that exists to authorize and oversee high quality public charter schools throughout Washington with an emphasis on schools designed to expand opportunities for at-risk students, providing leadership and oversight that is consistent with national principles and standards of charter school authorizers and the provisions of Washington’s charter school law.

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