

MCCPTA Draft Resolution on the Rights of and Protections for Undocumented Children

September 26, 2017

Undocumented children are essential members of our communities and schools. It is in the national interest to ensure that all children, including undocumented children, have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society. The right to a free public education is the most effective method of securing this opportunity, and should not be denied to any child.

This right is secured under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Plyler v. Doe* (1982) that undocumented school-aged children are entitled to have access to a high quality and free public K-12 education. The Maryland Dream Act, which supports the education, lawful employment, and legal authorization of immigrant students to drive, was approved overwhelmingly by Maryland voters in a 2012 referendum.

Termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) is expected to have damaging consequences on schools and education across the country, including in Maryland and Montgomery County. The decision jeopardizes the futures of nearly 9,000 young Marylanders, many of them still in public schools. Many parents who lose work authorizations will face deportation or be forced into a dangerous underground economy, causing financial uncertainty for their families and harmful stress on their children – our students.

The Superintendents of Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Howard County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County have expressed serious concern regarding termination of DACA protections, and have appealed to Maryland Governor Larry Hogan and state legislators in support of DACA beneficiaries.

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA) supports the National PTA Position Statement on the Rights and Services for Undocumented Children and appeals to Governor Hogan, the State legislature, and congressional representatives to support the rights and protections for our undocumented students. We commit to working with Montgomery County Public Schools to provide all children in our schools, regardless of immigration status, a safe and welcoming environment to learn. We fully intend to uphold Maryland's emphasis on the values of equity and opportunity and support national legislation to protect the rights of undocumented students in our communities and schools.