



September 17, 2017

Dear Residency Program Director,

A handful of medical students that are recipients of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program are applying to residency programs for the 2018 Match. As you may be aware, on September 5, 2017, the Trump administration announced it will be terminating the DACA program. As a national organization that provides resources, information, and advocacy to undocumented students in the health professions, we write this letter to provide guidance on the issue of DACA recipients participating in the 2018 National Resident Matching Program.

As a brief overview, DACA provides the temporary deferral of enforcement of immigration laws for certain undocumented youth who came to the U.S. as children and nearly 100 are currently in medical school. In a recent article in *Academic Medicine*, titled, “Considerations for Residency Programs Regarding Accepting Undocumented Students who are DACA recipients,” we describe how DACA confers benefits that are sufficient to meet all employment and licensing requirements to participate in a residency program such as a social security number and work authorization.

However, with the announcement to rescind DACA, no *new* applications for DACA will be considered, and people who already have DACA, will have their work permits expire beginning March 6, 2018 through 2020 with no option to renew. This will significantly impact the ability of a DACA recipient to complete a residency program. Even with these developments, we encourage you to give fair consideration to DACA recipients, as you would any other applicant. Congress has introduced legislation to protect DACA recipients from deportation and to provide them with long-term immigration relief. Immigration laws may evolve in the near future that will restore a DACA recipient’s ability to complete a residency program.

As the Match cycle progresses, we recommend you maintain open lines of communication with DACA candidates in your applicant pool. Important issues to discuss are developments in immigration policy, timelines for their work permit expiration and other immigration remedies an applicant may be considering or is currently pursuing. To review your DACA applicant pool you can search your ERAS applications under the “visa type” filter under “DACA.”

These students have worked extremely hard to pursue their dreams of becoming physicians despite being unable to access student loans and other public aid programs. For a summary of DACA students in medical education and other questions regarding residency training, please see our article [here](#).

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us: Angela Chen, Director of Pre-Health Dreamers at angela@phdreamers.org, and Sunny Nakae, Assistant Dean for Admissions, Recruitment and Student Life, at Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine at snakae@luc.edu or 708.216.5325.

Thank you,

Angela Chen
Director of Pre-Health Dreamers