

**National Federation of Democratic Women
Resolution on Pathway to Citizenship**

WHEREAS, the United States has a long legacy of providing refuge, opportunity and freedom to immigrants who in turn made significant contributions to the economic and social fabric to this country; and

WHEREAS, in June 2012, the Obama Administration introduced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program which included those under the age of 31, who entered the US before their 16th birthday and who continuously resided in the U.S. without lawful status, having been granted deferred action. The policy rationale was to prevent deportation of young adults and children who grew up as Americans yet did not voluntarily enter the U.S. without lawful status.

WHEREAS, in November 2014, President Obama announced a series of executive actions to address illegal immigration and to prioritize deporting felons not families. The executive actions expanded the DACA program by extending the period from two to three years, removing the age requirement, and easing the continuous residency requirement. The executive actions also introduced the new Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program. The DAPA program permitted parents of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents (LPR) to apply for deferred action if they had continuously resided in the U.S.; and

Whereas, Congress has complete authority over immigration and has failed to create laws that will enable the DACA and DAPA individuals to remain in the U.S. as legal citizens, thus creating anxiety, uncertainty and chaos. By living in fear of being deported, these educated, talented and hard-working individuals have not been utilized to their highest potential.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National Federation of Democratic Women demands that the U.S. Congress shall adopt laws that allow the DACA and DAPA individuals to become productive and permanent U. S. citizens and allow their families to remain intact.

Submitted by the NFDW Legislative Committee on April 26, 2018

Approved by the NFDW Membership at the 47th Annual Convention on June 16, 2018