

FACT SHEET

Let the DREAMers DREAM

The DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program allows certain undocumented immigrant youth who came here as children – commonly known as DREAMers because of the proposed DREAM Act federal legislation – to live

and work in the United States for a renewable period of two years without fear of deportation.

Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman said in a press statement on August 17, 2012 that he would deny driver's licenses to immigrants who

participate in this program.

This discriminatory and anti-immigrant stance would have an impact on young people who have called Nebraska home and want to contribute to our economy and communities.

Adriana *UNO Student*

High school wasn't enough for Adriana. As a high school senior, she took classes at the University of Nebraska Medical Center and is considering becoming a pediatrician. She's been able to find time for the arts, sports and cheerleading.

Maria *UNO Architectural Engineering Student*

Maria has called the US home since she was just 5 and has already given back greatly to the US. In addition to graduating High School with honors, she was involved with band and volunteers with the American Cancer Society and mentors 11 younger students.

Itzel *College-bound High School Student*

Itzel, Maria's sister, is also a life-long American. She shares her sister's enthusiasm for the arts by participating in theatre and choir. As a current high school senior, she is looking at which colleges will allow her to excel in the future.

Octavio *Graduate Student in Chemistry*

Like many Nebraskans, Octavio grew up on a family farm. He came to the US at age 14, immediately learning English while going to high school. He is now applying for a Masters in Chemistry program and mentors elementary school students.



The ACLU has already filed lawsuits in Arizona and Michigan, whose governors are also pushing discriminatory, anti-immigrant policies. In Nebraska, the ACLU will be filing a lawsuit. There are three primary reasons for the lawsuit:

Denying young Americans the ability to drive is **unlawful**

Denying driver's licenses to DREAMers is a violation of both state and federal law. The Obama Administration has given DREAMers "lawful status" which obligates the state of Nebraska to provide for identification, such

as driver's licenses. Additionally, the governor does not have the authority to make this decision on his own. He has stepped into a realm that should be governed by the Legislature.

Denying young Americans the ability to drive is **poor policy**

Recent studies confirm that immigrants are a boost to Nebraska's economy. The ACLU has been working with hundreds of talented young people who want to contribute to the American economy and provide for their families. The governor's order would impact

daily life, such as going to the grocery store, attending church, and finding and keeping a job. Issuing licenses will also promote public safety by decreasing the risk of accidents caused by unlicensed drivers and enlarging the pool of insured.

Denying young Americans the ability to drive is **unAmerican**

The majority of Nebraskans (58%) believe that undocumented immigrants who are working should be able to keep their jobs and pursue legal status. Governor Dave Heineman has consistently

pushed anti-immigrant policies, even when diverse groups such as the Nebraska Catholic Conference, law enforcement officials, educators, and a variety of human service organizations have expressed concerns.

Immigration & the ACLU

The ACLU began its immigration work in the 1920s. Since then, affiliates like ours have taken on discriminatory, anti-immigrant policies in the courts and legislatures around the country. Here are some highlights of our work in Nebraska.

■ **Martinez v. Fremont**

The City of Fremont passed a discriminatory anti-immigrant housing ordinance in June 2010 and a federal court struck down most of the law in 2012. The ACLU appeared before the 8th Circuit Court of Appeals in December 2012 to further cement the victory.

■ **Claudia Leiva-Deras**

Claudia was raped while in an immigration detention center. It took the ACLU's intervention for her to receive proper medical care. She is now a legal permanent resident who works with other immigrant women.

■ **Defeating Anti-Immigrant Legislation**

The ACLU has mobilized supporters to defeat "show me your papers" laws such as voter ID, and AZ-style bill, and attacks on education for children of immigrants.

Join with the ACLU and Urge Governor Heineman to Let the DREAMers Dream.

Visit www.aclunebraska.org and let Governor Heineman know that his anti-immigrant policies are not what you want to see in Nebraska.

