

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR ARLINGTON COUNTY IMMIGRANTS,
IMMIGRANT PROTECTION, AND DREAMERS

WHEREAS, Arlington County Democrats are dedicated to providing all Arlington residents fair and equal access to services, opportunities and protections; and

WHEREAS, Arlington County Democrats respect, uphold, and value equal protection and equal treatment for all of our residents, regardless of immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Fostering a relationship of trust, respect, and open communication between Arlington County residents is essential to Arlington's commitment to an inclusive and open environment and our core sense of who we are; and

WHEREAS, The foreign-born share of Virginia's population has grown to represent a significant part of our local economies and tax bases. Specifically in 2013 immigrants comprised 15% of the commonwealth's workforce (or 654,115 workers); and

WHEREAS, The Congressional Budget Office estimates that between 50-75% of all undocumented immigrants pay some form of federal, state, or local taxes and, in Virginia, unauthorized immigrants pay \$256 million in state and local taxes, according to data from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy; and

WHEREAS, immigrants contribute to our economic well-being, as shown by analysis on immigration's impact in Virginia by the respected Commonwealth Institute regarding the entrepreneurial, labor, and educational strengths that immigrants bring to Virginia's economy; and

WHEREAS, DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Action) recipients, also known as Dreamers, are people who came into the United States with their families at an early age, become great students, Veterans, and members of Arlington, should be properly recognized as members of our country, in many instances the only country they have ever known; and

WHEREAS, President Obama adopted DACA as an interim measure due to the failure of Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform, and not all Dreamers receive DACA protection; and

WHEREAS President Trump recently rescinded DACA with an effective date six-months into the future to permit Congressional action; and

WHEREAS, Public safety in Arlington County is best promoted when victims and witnesses of crime feel safe in cooperating with law enforcement officials; and

WHEREAS, In the current political landscape, immigrants across the Commonwealth increasingly fear profiling, punitive treatment, and potential deportation when engaging with

the very social services entrusted to support them, leading to decreases in crime reporting among BOTH legal and undocumented immigrants; and

WHEREAS, Fostering trust and respect between County service providers—including law enforcement, Arlington County Public Schools, county courts, and social services agencies—and all residents, regardless of immigration status, is paramount to protecting limited resources, encouraging cooperation between residents and County officials, and ensuring community safety; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of this Resolution is to foster respect and trust between law enforcement and residents, to protect limited resources, to encourage cooperation between residents and County officials, especially law enforcement, and to ensure community security and due process for all,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Arlington County Democrats on December 6, 2017 ask :

- (a) Arlington County’s representatives in Congress, Congressman Don Beyer, Senator Mark Warner, and Senator Tim Kaine strongly support the Dream Act and oppose President Trump’s various actions that play to fear about immigration; and
- (b) Arlington County’s Virginia Delegates and State Senators support in-state tuition for Dreamers as the right thing to do for our community, students, and for the future of our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Arlington County Democrats on December 6, 2017 support the following, existing policies of Arlington County and Arlington Public Schools:

- (c) Arlington County law enforcement does not stop, question, interrogate, investigate, or arrest an individual based solely on actual or suspected immigration or citizenship status; or a civil immigration warrant, administrative warrant, or an immigration detainer in the individual’s name; and
- (d) Arlington County does not inquire about the immigration status of an individual, including a crime victim, a witness, or a person who calls or approaches the police seeking assistance, unless necessary to investigate criminal activity that is unrelated to the enforcement of civil immigration law; and
- (e) Arlington County will not enter into any agreements to enforce, or otherwise voluntarily engage in the enforcement of, federal immigration law or to perform federal immigration functions pursuant to 8 U.S.C. § 1357g; and
- (f) Arlington County limits the information collected from individuals concerning immigration or citizenship status to that necessary to perform Arlington County’s duties and/or comply with state law; and

- (g) Arlington County does not use agency or department monies, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to investigate, enforce, or assist in the establishment, maintenance or enforcement of any federal program requiring registration of individuals on the basis of race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, ethnicity, or national origin; and
- (h) Arlington County personnel does not inquire about or request proof of immigration status or citizenship when providing services or benefits, except where the receipt of such services or benefits is contingent by law upon verification of one's immigration or citizenship status or where inquiries are otherwise lawfully required by federal, state, or local laws; and
- (i) Arlington County does not collect or maintain information about the political, religious or social views, associations or activities of any individual, group, association, corporation, business or partnership or other entity unless such information directly relates to an investigation of criminal activities, and there are reasonable grounds to suspect that the particular subject of the information, whether an individual or other entity, is involved in criminal conduct; and
- (j) In order to protect the rights of students, Arlington County Public Schools has procedures for handling interactions with immigration officials seeking information about, or requesting to talk with any student about, their immigration status; providing for cooperating with such requests only to the extent required by law; and barring the collection and disclosure of students' citizenship status except to the extent required by state or federal law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Arlington County Democrats on December 6, 2017:

- (k) Support the implementation of consistent, county-wide aggregate data collection and support the protections noted in the above resolutions, as applied to Arlington County, consistent with our community's commitment to immigration, immigrants, dreamers, and our diverse, strong community.