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## NEBRASKA COALITION

TO END SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

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The Nebraska Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence stands firmly on a foundation of equality and unity against all forms of oppression. Terminating the protections provided by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), the ability to obtain a driver's license, assistance that makes it possible to afford college, become employed, and hold professional licensure, places Dreamers in an immediately vulnerable position for abuse and exploitation.

Abuse and exploitation thrive in an atmosphere of silence and fear. The removal of these protections extends that atmosphere of silence and fear beyond the hands of the individual abuser, to creep into our local communities and our country. It creates another barrier for an already marginalized population to seek assistance from systems designed to enhance personal safety. It inhibits financial independence often used by abusers to maintain control over their victim. It creates a climate that fosters labor trafficking and sexual exploitation.

The termination of DACA will result in deportation, separating families, extinguishing communities that are rich in diversity, and promoting a climate of oppression in which abuse flourishes. People don't just disappear; it will force Dreamers into the shadows, fearful of deportation and possible brutalization from civilians and government agencies alike. The loss of these young adults who have made the effort to enroll in DACA so as to more fully and freely interact with the US government system, thereby expanding their educational and career opportunities, could potentially have detrimental effects on our economy. For some, the desire to maintain the only life they've ever known may increase their vulnerability for mistreatment, manipulation, exploitation and abuse at the hands of those who would hold them hostage with their immigration status. For others, they will face the decision of taking their minor children, who are citizens of the United States, back to a foreign country, leaving them behind with a family member if that's a possibility, or risk staying in an effort to maintain the life their child has always known. DACA recipients have crossed their hearts and pledged allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, even served in the military, they work beside us, are our classmates, neighbors, friends, and sit next to us in houses of worship. The termination of these protections has already created damage to our country; it has dismissed the humanity of some 800,000 people by rendering them disposable. Any action by an individual, community, or government which renders a member of our society vulnerable is an action that cannot be justified. The Nebraska Coalition stands with the Dreamers and all those who fight against oppression.

~Author, Marla Sohl, Nebraska Coalition