



News Release

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For Immediate Release

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DHS Announcement - Good News But Far From Amnesty

On August 18, 2011, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced plans to review about 300,000 cases of immigrants already in deportation proceedings and determine on a case by case basis whether to stay the removal of persons with no criminal histories. Many opponents of immigration reform were calling this an amnesty. It is a far cry from an amnesty.

DHS still has the discretion to deny relief, so at the end of the day the number of immigrants who benefit could be considerably less than 300,000. And the vast majority of immigrants who have lived here for years, worked hard, paid taxes, have U.S. citizen children or spouses who have been driven underground will not be considered eligible for this temporary reprieve because they are not in deportation proceedings. This includes countless DREAM Act students who were brought to the U.S. as toddlers and now want to attend college or join the military.

According to Cheryl Little, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center's Executive Director, "I fear DHS' latest message-while likely seen as good news by many in the Hispanic community as an election year approaches-provides false hope that truly meaningful change is forthcoming. Ironically, those who have been placed in deportation proceedings now have some hope that they can get a work permit and a valid driver's license while those who have not are out of luck."

FIAC has seen a record number of deportations these past few years. FIAC attorney Romy Lerner added "The Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) has long urged the

Administration to stop targeting immigrants with no or minor criminal histories, with little success. If ICE is now truly committed to doing the right thing, this is a welcome step in the right direction."

Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC) has been fighting for the American dream since its founding in 1996. One of the nation's largest non-profit immigration law firms, FIAC represents vulnerable immigrants at no charge. This direct service work informs its broader policy work. FIAC influences national policy; successfully litigates or otherwise challenges patterns of abuse; and educates the public about the impact immigration laws and directives have on our communities. FIAC is dedicated to protecting and promoting the basic rights of immigrants..

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