

# origins

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## Trump Administration's Plan to End DACA Blocked

### U.S. Supreme Court

In one of the most anticipated cases of the term, the Supreme Court June 18 ruled against efforts by the Trump administration to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA. In a 5-4 decision, the court said the Trump administration's actions in rescinding the program were "arbitrary and capricious." Last November, the court examined three separate appellate court rulings that blocked President Donald Trump's 2017 executive order to end DACA, a program that started in 2012 by executive order under the Obama

*"DHS's decision to rescind DACA was arbitrary and capricious."*

administration and that has enabled 700,000 qualifying young people to work, go to college, get health insurance, obtain a driver's license and not face deportation. These young adults were brought to the U.S. as children by their parents without legal documentation. The court's majority opinion, written by Chief Justice John Roberts, points out that the court's action does not stop future efforts to end DACA but that the government failed to give acceptable reasons for ending it. It said acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke, in her efforts to dismantle DACA in 2017, didn't use all options to limit the program and didn't consider just how important it was to participants. The syllabus, or summary, of the court's decision follows.

In 2012, the Department of Homeland Security issued a memorandum announcing an immigration relief program known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, which allows certain unauthorized aliens who arrived in the United States as children to apply for a two-year forbearance of removal. Those granted such relief become eligible for work authorization and various federal benefits. Some 700,000 aliens have availed themselves of this opportunity.

Two years later, DHS expanded DACA eligibility and created a related program known as Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA). If implemented, that program would have made 4.3 million parents of U.S. citizens or

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