

## Official Statement from Year Up's Founder and CEO on Behalf of the DACA Program

Tuesday, September 5, 2017

The repeal of DACA is a frontal attack on America's values. President Trump's decision to end the program in six months adds tremendous uncertainty to the lives of nearly 800,000 individuals, their families, and their employers. If Congress is unable to pass sensible immigration reform quickly, not only will Dreamers face enormous challenges, but the American economy will lose hundreds of billions of dollars. The end of DACA rips opportunity away from hard-working, motivated, and deserving young people and threatens their livelihood, which is against everything that Year Up stands for.

We strongly supported the continuation of DACA, and are now actively working to promote the successful passage of immigration reform that allows for the safety and security — and access to employment — for Dreamers. Given the importance of this issue, we hope and expect that our local, state and federal leaders will do what is right and stand up to be counted. We must all be focused on improving opportunity for skilled young adults and not support actions that do the opposite.

Thanks to DACA, more than 300 Year Up students and alumni who were born outside the U.S. have become economic assets, contributing significant tax revenue and serving as role models in their communities. DACA young adults all over the country are bridging the skills gap and ensuring top companies stay competitive on a global scale. At Year Up, we believe that everyone — regardless of where they're born — should have the opportunity and support to reach their full potential through access to higher education and professional careers. We will do all that we can to have our voices heard in support of Dreamers, and to continue our fight for a legislative solution on their behalf.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gerald Chertavian".

**Gerald Chertavian**  
Founder & CEO, Year Up