

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

Friday, September 1, 2017

The threatened repeal of DACA is a frontal attack on America's values. A decision to end the program will not only add tremendous challenges to the lives of 750,000 individuals and their families, but will cost the American economy hundreds of billions of dollars. A DACA repeal would rip opportunity away from hard-working, motivated, and deserving young people and threaten their livelihood, which is against everything that Year Up stands for. We strongly support the continuation of DACA until the successful passage of sensible immigration reform that will allow 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 DACA, and to continue our fight against the reversal of this important program.

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

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