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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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**Albuquerque Denounces Supreme Court
Decision Blocking DACA+ & DAPA:
*Community Vows to Continue the Fight***

ALBUQUERQUE – Today at a press conference, organizations representing ListoNM, families, elected officials, legal experts, and community allies denounced the outrageous decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the injunction on President Obama’s administrative relief programs—known as DACA+ and DAPA— which had been put on hold due to an anti-immigrant lawsuit spearheaded by the state of Texas. Upon implementation the programs could have benefitted more than 36,000 hard working families in New Mexico and 5 million immigrant families nationwide in addition to growing the economy.

“Today the Supreme Court issued a split decision that will leave in place the preliminary injunction blocking DAPA and the expansion of DACA. While today’s deadlock sets no Supreme Court precedent, these important, commonsense policies will remain blocked nationwide for the time being,” said Eva Eitzen, Legal Director of New Mexico Immigrant Law Center. “However, the battle is not over. We are urging the Obama administration to seek rehearing in this case so that a fully constituted Supreme Court can issue a binding decision in this case.”

Bertha Campos, an Albuquerque small business owner, and mother of five has lived in the U.S. for the past 28 years. She, like most immigrants, lives in a mixed status family and she would have qualified for DAPA, “Today the Court decided to maintain the status quo for millions of families across the country,” she said. “But, we will not be silent. We will continue organizing locally against deportations and to protect workers’ rights. In addition, the Latino community will remember which politicians are responsible for this come November.”

Members of ListoNM vowed to continue to fight for the dignity of their families, “Today’s decision is only a small setback in our fight for families. Our movement will be back to fight again, stronger than ever, after working to elect pro-immigrant leaders at the federal, state, and local levels in 2016. Our community will not stop fighting until we win the comprehensive immigration reform that our families deserve and that reflects the shared values to which we aspire as a nation”, stated Karla Molinar Arvizo, a member of the New Mexico Dream Team.

“The millions of parents and workers that will benefit from DACA+ and DAPA deserve the security and dignity of a work authorization and a reprieve from the constant threat of deportation,” stated Representative Javier Martinez. “In New Mexico we realize that this is not

just a policy issue, this is a personal issue. Most Hispanic voters in New Mexico know someone who is undocumented. This is about New Mexico friends, family, the small-business owner down the street, and the person we pray with at church. It's about respect and dignity. It's about millions of lives. Immigration remains a key issue for the 2016 elections. Come November, our community will remember who stood with us, and who stood against us as we cast our very powerful votes”

Councilor Benton, a co-sponsor of a memorial passed in support of DACA and DAPA last year by the Albuquerque City Council, explained why state and local governments could have benefitted from the programs' implementation, “DACA+ and DAPA would have allowed tens of thousands of immigrants with deep roots in New Mexico to keep their families together, more fully integrate into our communities, and increase our tax-base and economic activity. Regardless of today's Supreme Court decision, we are still committed to work with the community to ensure that local policies which are conducive to immigrant integration. ”

According to the latest survey by the Center for American Progress, in the state of New Mexico, it is estimated that over 36 thousand people would have benefited from the immigration initiative and could have created an economic stimulus of up to \$1 billion during the following decade after implementation. “Not only is the injunction putting our families at risk for deportation, but this is a sad day for New Mexico's economy. DAPA and expanded DACA would have stimulated the state and local economies by expanding the tax-base, launching new and growing existing small businesses, bolstering the spending power of immigrant consumers, and increasing demand for financial services.” stated Andrea Plaza Executive Director of Encuentro.

The community can obtain information about the Supreme Court decision, about DACA 2012 (which was not impacted by the Supreme Court decision), and about upcoming informational forums at www.listonm.org or by texting “LISTO” to (505) 465-4994.

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**The Listo Nuevo México Campaign is a network of organizations and individuals dedicated to the full integration of immigrants in New Mexico by ensuring low-income immigrants access to social and legal services to obtain Administrative Relief, fostering leadership development in our communities and promoting economic and civic engagement.*