

THE BLUE BANNER

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The Blue Banner is UNC Asheville's student newspaper. We publish each Tuesday except during summer sessions, finals week and holiday breaks. Our office is located in Karpen Hall 019.

The Blue Banner is a designated forum for free speech and welcomes letters to the editor, considering them on basis of interest, space and timeliness. Letters and articles should be emailed to the editor-in-chief or the appropriate section editor. Letters should include the writer's name, year in school, and major or other relationship to UNCA. Include a phone number to aid in verification. All articles are subject to editing.

EDITORIAL

WE STAND WITH DACA RECIPIENTS

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President Trump announced last Tuesday his administration would begin the process to repeal the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

DACA was first implemented in 2012 under the Obama administration to protect undocumented immigrants who had entered the country as minors.

Under the Trump administration, these protections could be taken away.

Despite the administration allowing a six-month window for Congress to act, the simple declaration to end this program is enough to strike concern into the hearts of hundreds of thousands who will be affected.

The Blue Banner does not, in any way, support Trump's decision to end DACA.

Though the editorial board has political differences, we affirm this is a critical and imperative human issue, and not one of partisanship.

We believe every American — even those who may have entered the country illegally — have inalienable rights to the pursuit of happiness.

We stand by our friends, colleagues, and students in the community affected by this rhetoric.

Chancellor Mary K. Grant sent an email to students on Thurs-

day, providing a six-sentence acknowledgement of the DACA repeal, accompanied by a vague affirmation of our university's core values and mission for diversity and inclusiveness.

We respect and appreciate this acknowledgement by Chancellor Grant, but feel this email fell short of producing a call for action, yielding deeper insight or implementing means by which students can combat the repeal of DACA in a democratic manner.

Expressing hopefulness is comforting, but does not serve to clearly assert solidarity with members of the student body who are fearing for their future. Moving forward, we wish to see further public conversation about this issue on campus.

Mark Meadows, Republican U.S. Representative for North Carolina's 11th congressional district, expressed support for Trump's decision and encourages congress to consider action on immigration reform — including the wall — before visiting the president's plan to repeal DACA during this six-month window. He is up for re-election in 2018.

We strongly encourage students and staff to partake in the local democratic process and vote during this election.