

**HJC Immigration and Citizenship Subcommittee – July 29, 2020  
Oversight of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**

**Madam Chair, from the very beginning of Trump’s presidential campaign in 2016, he has attacked immigrants to score cheap political points with his base.**

**When the Trump Administration decided to phase out the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”) in 2017, it was just another example of an administration hellbent on demonizing immigrants who contribute billions to the U.S. economy and are an important part of communities like mine in Houston and all across our country.**

**On June 18th of this year, just last month, I commended the Supreme Court for upholding DACA by determining that the Trump Administration’s decision to rescind**

**the program was “arbitrary and capricious.”**

**This ruling ultimately meant that over 650,000 undocumented U.S. residents who were brought to the United States as children, through no fault of their own, won't lose their current protection from deportation.**

**However, just yesterday, Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) Chad Wolf (“Secretary Wolf”) released a memo to USCIS among CBP and ICE, which in summary “directs DHS personnel to take all appropriate actions to reject all pending and future initial requests for DACA and associated applications while the DACA policy is pending [Secretary Wolf’s] full reconsideration.”**

**Rather than focusing on critical furloughs at USCIS, the Trump Administration has exacerbated the funding crisis at USCIS.**

**This not only hurts our vibrant communities, but the dedicated federal employees who work there and their loved ones.**

**In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, USCIS shut down most field offices and cancelled in-person interviews, including naturalization interviews.**

**While there's been a resumption of some administration of oath ceremonies, many future Americans, especially constituents in my district, are concerned of having to share crowded places, even while implementing social distancing guidelines amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Although I am proud to have worked closely with USCIS, specifically the Houston Field Office, on a number of constituent issues, most recently on behalf of the family of Vanessa Guillen, I am deeply concerned by the directions set forth by DHS Secretary Wolf's memorandum dated July 28, 2020, that outlines the Trump Administration is now openly defying the Supreme Court of the United States.**