



**PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **“BREAK THE INTERNET FOR THE DREAM”**

### **NATIONAL VIRTUAL MARCH**

*Using social media as a tool to tell stories, organizers seek to engage a million people to support a clean DREAM Act to protect young immigrants and their families.*

Los Angeles -- A partnership of local, regional, and national organizations launches a unique online storytelling effort Wednesday, September 27, 2017 to change the narrative around immigration. The “Break the Internet for the Dream” is a national virtual march in support of a clean DREAM Act.

Organizers seek to engage 1 million people to tell their stories and post positive messages using the Facebook “check-in” tool, update their status, and check-in at the United States Capitol between September 27 and October 2, 2017.

“We stand with all Dreamers and call upon Congress to pass a Dream Act that ensures these young people remain a vital fabric of our country as citizens,” said Community Coalition President & CEO Alberta Retana.

“Every dream deserves a fighting chance. We call on Congress to do their job and fight for the rights of young immigrants to stay in this county they call home. We urge Congress to pass a clean Dream Act that provides a path to citizenship without criminalizing our communities,” stated Laphonza Butler, President SEIU Local 2015, California’s largest union.

The DREAM Act is a permanent legislative solution to protect the more than 1 million young immigrants and their families whose protection from deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program was rescinded by President Trump earlier this month.

“We have good reason to believe there is a chance for a DREAM Act without enforcement measures to be approved by the Congress soon. Both parties need to hear from the American public that passing the DREAM Act is the right thing to do and they need to hear from us now,” stated Angelica Salas, Executive Director for the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA).

Organizers call on the American public to use digital media to add their voice seeking justice for young immigrants and their families.

A website (<http://virtualmarch.us>) has been set up as a central place for engagement & information. A thunderclap is available as an additional method to promote the virtual march: <https://www.thunderclap.it/projects/62572-virtualmarch-us-cleandreamact>. The following hashtag is to be used on all postings: #cleanDREAMact

The co-sponsors of the virtual march include: SEIU Local 2015, CHIRLA, California Dream Network, UCLA Labor Center, ACLU Southern California, Undocumedia, United We Dream, National Education Association, Pantsuit Nation, UFW Foundation, Dream Resource Center, National Immigration Law Center, Church World Service, ACLU, iAmerica, Community Coalition, SEIU International, 4RCE Initiative, Women’s March LA, Mi Familia Vota, Asians NOW, SEIU California, We Belong Together Network, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles.

Press may also access a digital toolkit to get logos, stories, and other materials, here: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B9WCQ\\_v2b8pCMmJfVUlaMnpLNkU](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/0B9WCQ_v2b8pCMmJfVUlaMnpLNkU)

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