NEWS RELEASE

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RHODE ISLAND DEMS' CHAIR LAUDS GOVERNOR & AREA ADVOCACY GROUPS ON EFFORTS TO PROTECT 'DREAMERS'

Unique Initiative to Help Cover DREAMers' $495 Renewal Fees Due to Feds by October 5 & Provide Other Services

WARWICK, R.I. – Rhode Island Democratic Party Chair Joseph M. McNamara lauded the actions of Governor Gina Raimondo and a group of Rhode Island individuals and organizations Monday who took "extraordinary measures" to protect Rhode Island's DACA youth, by covering the $495 renewal fee DREAMers must individually pay to renew their application to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) by October 5 of this year. They will also be afforded support from legal and social service programs in the interim. There are an estimated 1,200 young people affected by DACA in our state, and this joint effort is believed to be the first-of-its-kind in the nation.

"Governor Raimondo has shown a true commitment to our DACA youth by working with other like-minded leaders in Rhode Island to help those youth who– through no fault of their own – could be sent back as strangers to countries they left as infants or small children," McNamara said. "Like Governor Raimondo and the coalition of advocacy groups – the Rhode Island Center for Justice, the Immigration Clinic at Roger Williams University School of Law, the Pro Bono Collaborative at the Roger Williams School of Law, Progreso Latino, Dorcas International Institute and the Coalition of Advocates for Student Opportunities (CASO) involved in this issue –many of us are deeply disturbed that this president is using our young people as political ploys for his base.

"We are proud of Governor Raimondo's leadership here and urge Governors and congressional leaders nationwide to join us in this effort to protect our youth," McNamara said.

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