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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
CALIFORNIA,

Plaintiff,

v.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND  
SECURITY and CHAD WOLF, *in his*  
*official capacity as purported Acting Secretary of*  
*the Department of Homeland Security,*

Defendants.

Civil Case No.: 17-cv-05211-WHA

**FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR  
DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE  
RELIEF**

1 The Regents of the University of California (“UC” or “the University”), on its own behalf and on  
2 behalf of all students currently enrolled at the University, brings this action for declaratory and  
3 injunctive relief against the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) and purported Acting Secretary  
4 of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf (together, “Defendants”), and alleges as follows:

#### 5 INTRODUCTION

6 1. Since its inception in 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (“DACA”)  
7 program has provided more than 800,000 individuals the ability to live, study, and work in the United  
8 States without fear that they could be detained and deported at any time. The program has allowed  
9 DACA recipients to pursue opportunities in higher education, to more readily obtain driver’s licenses  
10 and access lines of credit, to obtain jobs, and to access certain Social Security and Medicare benefits.  
11 The opportunities afforded by DACA have permitted recipients to better care for their families,  
12 including their approximately 200,000 U.S.-citizen children. At the same time, DACA recipients have  
13 made invaluable contributions to American society, including through their professional, intellectual,  
14 and cultural achievements.

15 2. The University, in particular, has directly benefited from the DACA program in its  
16 capacities as educator and employer. UC has more than 4,000 undocumented students, including  
17 approximately 1,700 current DACA recipients and as many as 1,700 more students who would have  
18 been eligible for DACA but for Defendants’ unlawful actions described below. Many of the  
19 University’s staff members are also DACA recipients. These individuals make important contributions  
20 to University life by expanding the intellectual vitality of the University; filling crucial roles as medical  
21 residents, research assistants, and student government leaders; and increasing the diversity of the  
22 community.

23 3. Despite the clear successes and benefits of DACA, the federal government has sought  
24 arbitrarily to rescind the program for shifting and untenable reasons. In 2017, DHS abruptly and  
25 arbitrarily sought to rescind the program without reason (the “Rescission”). This Court enjoined the  
26 Rescission, the Ninth Circuit affirmed, and on June 18, 2020, the Supreme Court of the United States  
27 held that the Rescission was arbitrary and capricious in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act  
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1 (“APA”). The Supreme Court’s decision rested on a finding that, even if DHS’s purported concerns  
2 about the lawfulness of DACA were credited, DHS had failed to consider options for modifying DACA  
3 short of rescinding the program altogether and failed to address whether there had been legitimate  
4 reliance on the program.

5 4. Despite clear directives from the Supreme Court, as well as the decisions of many other  
6 courts—including the Ninth Circuit—that previously found the Rescission arbitrary and capricious,  
7 Defendants have persisted in their efforts to harm DACA and DACA recipients.

8 5. Forty days after the Supreme Court’s decision—and only 11 days after a district court  
9 reinstated DACA in its entirety—Defendants announced immediate “interim” modifications to the  
10 program. On July 28, 2020, Defendant Chad Wolf, the purported Acting Secretary of DHS, issued—  
11 without authority—a memorandum directing DHS personnel to (1) reject all pending and future DACA  
12 applications, (2) cut the DACA renewal period (and accompanying work authorization) in half, and (3)  
13 reject all pending and future applications for advance parole (*i.e.*, permission to travel outside the United  
14 States and return lawfully). *See* Memorandum from Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of DHS, to Mark  
15 Morgan, Senior Official Performing the Duties of Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection,  
16 et al., Reconsideration of the June 15, 2012 Memorandum Entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion  
17 with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children” (July 28, 2020) (the “Wolf  
18 Memorandum”). As a result of these efforts, despite the ruling of the Supreme Court, DACA is once  
19 again imperiled by arbitrary administrative action.

20 6. By eliminating new DACA applications, the Wolf Memorandum cuts off DACA for  
21 applicants who are indistinguishable from current DACA recipients aside from the timing of their  
22 applications or the year of their birth. For example, a first immigrant who aged into eligibility the day  
23 after the unlawful Rescission is deprived of the benefits of DACA, while a second immigrant approved  
24 for DACA the day before the unlawful Rescission maintains the right to stay in the program. The first  
25 immigrant will be unable to lawfully work in the United States, will not have access to employer-  
26 sponsored healthcare, and may be arrested and deported at any time. The second immigrant can work  
27 lawfully, will have access to healthcare, and can participate in United States civic life without fear of  
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1 deportation. There is no basis for treating the two differently, but that is exactly what the Wolf  
2 Memorandum does. The Wolf Memorandum is all the more arbitrary because it denies DACA  
3 eligibility to individuals who aged into the program while the illegal Rescission was in place and who,  
4 but for the illegal Rescission, would be current DACA recipients.

5 7. The Wolf Memorandum also chops the DACA renewal period in half, requiring DACA  
6 recipients to renew every year rather than every other year. The result is a doubling of the already steep  
7 renewal fee, a likely slowdown in processing times due to the doubling of renewal applications, and an  
8 increased likelihood that DACA grants will lapse, resulting in job loss and deportation.

9 8. The Wolf Memorandum offers no basis for these modifications to DACA other than  
10 purported Acting Secretary Wolf's "strong desire" to "mitigate" supposed concerns about the program  
11 while he buys time to "consider[] anew the DACA policy." *Id.* at 4, 7. As with DHS's earlier efforts to  
12 rescind DACA, the Wolf Memorandum fails to adequately take account the vast programmatic benefits  
13 of the policy or of the reliance interests it has engendered, nor does it conduct any reasoned policy  
14 analysis for why DACA should be restricted and impaired.

15 9. The Wolf Memorandum scarcely acknowledges the exigent circumstances of COVID-19  
16 before concluding that the population that would be eligible for DACA—and its attendant work  
17 authorization and health care benefits—has no reliance interest on the program in the midst of a global  
18 pandemic. But the 2012 DACA Memorandum created a legitimate expectation that upon aging into the  
19 program, eligible immigrants would be able to avail themselves of the benefits of DACA, including  
20 access to lawful work, employer-sponsored healthcare, and heightened employment prospects in a  
21 depressed job market. The Wolf Memorandum does not acknowledge the essential ways DACA  
22 recipients have contributed (and continue to contribute) during the pandemic, for example the  
23 contributions of an estimated 29,000 DACA recipients who work as frontline health care workers. Nor  
24 does the Wolf Memorandum explain Defendants' sudden abandonment of their earlier supposed  
25 concerns about DACA's lawfulness that had been put forward as the reason for the original Rescission.

26 10. The Wolf Memorandum's modifications of the DACA policy have significant  
27 consequences for the University and its students. Thousands of University students who could have  
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1 enjoyed the benefits and made the contributions that DACA facilitates will be unable to do so simply  
2 because of the year they were born. For example, without work authorization, many will not have the  
3 opportunity to work as, for instance, research assistants and teaching fellows, as well as the opportunity  
4 to work lawfully in their chosen fields after graduation. Without the ability to work, some students will  
5 not be able to afford their education, and will have to abandon their studies prematurely. This obvious  
6 harm to those students would also negatively impact the University in turn, as it relies on the diverse  
7 perspectives those students bring to the classroom and beyond, and has made considerable investments  
8 in those students' educations.

9 11. Further, halving the renewal period from two years to one creates additional monitoring  
10 costs for the University, which now has a heightened burden of keeping track of its employees' work  
11 authorization expiration dates and compliance with the shortened timeframe. This shortened timeframe  
12 also increases the risk of lapses in work authorization, and those lapses would disrupt and harm ongoing  
13 research and services by depriving the University of the talents and efforts of DACA recipients who rely  
14 on work authorization to contribute outside of the classroom. Specifically, the effective doubling of  
15 renewal applications clogs an already burdened processing pipeline at the United States Citizenship and  
16 Immigration Services ("USCIS"), which frequently takes extensive time to process renewal applications.  
17 Yet USCIS will now outright reject (rather than simply hold) DACA renewal requests received more  
18 than 150 days prior to the recipient's DACA expiration. Thus lapses in work authorization are likely to  
19 occur even for DACA recipients who timely file their renewal applications. Moreover, the doubled  
20 renewal fees have significant consequences for DACA students, who will incur greater financial burdens  
21 or may not be able to afford to remain in the DACA program. In certain cases, the doubled fees may  
22 have direct financial impact on the University itself. And the University bears further direct economic  
23 harm by having to increase financial aid amounts to those students able to secure such aid who  
24 otherwise would have been able to support themselves without it.

25 12. As explained below, Defendants' capricious modifications to the DACA program  
26 violates both the procedural and substantive requirements of the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 706, the Due Process  
27 Clause of the Fifth Amendment, the Appointments Clause, U.S. Const. art. II, § 2, cl. 2, the Homeland  
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1 Security Act, 6 U.S.C. § 112 *et seq.* (“HSA”), the Federal Vacancies Reform Act, 5 U.S.C. § 3345 *et*  
2 *seq.* (“FVRA”), and constitutes *ultra vires* agency action. Accordingly, Defendants’ unconstitutional,  
3 unjust, and unlawful action must be set aside.

#### 4 THE PARTIES

5 13. Plaintiff The Regents of the University of California is a California public corporation,  
6 authorized and empowered to administer a public trust known as the University of California, pursuant  
7 to Article IX, Section 9, subdivisions (a) and (f) of the California Constitution. Its principal place of  
8 business is in Oakland, Alameda County, California. The University brings this complaint on behalf of  
9 itself and on behalf of all students currently enrolled at the University. More than 4,000 undocumented  
10 students are enrolled at the University, of whom about 1,700 are DACA recipients and approximately  
11 1,700 would have aged into DACA eligibility but for Defendants’ actions. Some of these recipients are  
12 also employed by the University.

13 14. Defendant DHS is a federal cabinet agency responsible for implementing and enforcing  
14 the Immigration and Nationality Act (“INA”). DHS is a Department of the Executive Branch of the  
15 United States Government and an agency within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 551(1). DHS, as well as its  
16 component agencies USCIS, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”), and U.S. Immigration and  
17 Customs Enforcement (“ICE”), have responsibility for, among other things, administering and enforcing  
18 the nation’s immigration laws and policies, including the DACA program.

19 15. Defendant Chad Wolf is the purported Acting Secretary of DHS, although he has not  
20 been lawfully designated to serve in that capacity, and cannot lawfully exercise the purported powers of  
21 the Acting Secretary of DHS. Purported Acting Secretary Wolf issued the Memorandum making  
22 “interim” modifications to DACA on July 28, 2020, under his purported authority.

23 16. USCIS is a component of DHS, 6 U.S.C. § 271, and an agency within the meaning of the  
24 APA, 5 U.S.C. § 551(1). USCIS is responsible for processing and adjudicating DACA applications.

25 17. Joseph Edlow is the purported Deputy Director for Policy of USCIS, although he has not  
26 been lawfully designated to serve in that capacity and cannot lawfully exercise the purported powers of  
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1 his office. Purported Deputy Director Edlow issued additional guidance regarding the implementation  
2 of the Wolf Memorandum on August 21, 2020.

3 **JURISDICTION**

4 18. This action arises under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment, U.S. Const.  
5 amend. V; the Appointments Clause, U.S. Const. art. II, § 2, cl. 2; the FVRA, 5 U.S.C. § 3345 *et seq.*;  
6 the HSA, 6 U.S.C. § 112 *et seq.*; and the APA, 5 U.S.C. § 550 *et seq.* This Court has jurisdiction  
7 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1361, and 2201–2202.

8 19. There exists an actual and justiciable controversy between Plaintiff and Defendants  
9 requiring resolution by this Court. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law.

10 **VENUE**

11 20. Venue is proper in the Northern District of California pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(e),  
12 because this is a civil action in which Defendants are an agency, or officers of an agency, of the United  
13 States, because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to this action occurred in the  
14 District, and, further, because Plaintiff resides in this District and no real property is involved in the  
15 action.

16 **INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

17 21. Pursuant to Local Rule 3-2(c), intradistrict assignment is proper in San Francisco or  
18 Oakland because a substantial part of the events or omissions which give rise to the claim occurred in  
19 the County of Alameda.

20 **BACKGROUND**

21 **A. *The DACA Program***

22 22. On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced that  
23 individuals who arrived in the United States as children and met certain criteria could apply for deferred  
24 action for two-year periods, subject to renewal. *See* DACA Memorandum. In establishing the program,  
25 the Secretary elected to extend deferred action to “certain young people who were brought to this  
26 country as children and know only this country as home.” *Id.* The Secretary emphasized that federal  
27 immigration laws are “not designed . . . to remove productive young people to countries where they may  
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1 not have lived or even speak the language. Indeed, many of these young people have already  
2 contributed to our country in significant ways.” *Id.* This program is known as Deferred Action for  
3 Childhood Arrivals or “DACA.”

4 23. Individuals were eligible for the program if they (1) came to the United States when they  
5 were under the age of sixteen; (2) continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, and  
6 were present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and on the date they requested DACA; (3) were  
7 currently in school, had graduated from high school, had obtained a general education development  
8 certificate, or were an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United  
9 States; (4) had not been convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor, or three or more other  
10 misdemeanors, and otherwise did not pose a threat to national security or public safety; (5) did not have  
11 lawful immigration status on June 15, 2012; and (6) were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012. *See*  
12 *id.*; *see also* U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Servs.: Consideration of Deferred Action for Childhood  
13 Arrivals Process (Aug. 26, 2017) (hereinafter “USCIS FAQs”). Individuals must generally be 15 years  
14 old in order to apply. Individuals who met these criteria were then eligible for an exercise of  
15 prosecutorial discretion, following an individualized review of their applications. *See* DACA  
16 Memorandum.

17 24. When they applied for admission to the program, DACA recipients were required to  
18 disclose sensitive, personal information to Defendants, including their lack of lawful immigration status  
19 as of June 15, 2012, their date of initial entry into the United States, their country of birth, their current  
20 and previous mailing addresses, and other contact information. *See* USCIS Form I-821D; USCIS Form  
21 I-821D Instructions.

22 25. Continuing their longstanding practice with respect to deferred-action applications,  
23 Defendants repeatedly promised DACA applicants that the information they submitted as part of their  
24 applications would not be used for civil immigration enforcement purposes against DACA applicants or  
25 their families. *See* USCIS FAQs; Form I-821D Instructions. Because only individuals who might be  
26 subject to removal proceedings would apply for DACA, this promise was necessary for individuals to  
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1 submit applications without fear that the Executive Branch was using DACA as a way to find and  
2 remove undocumented immigrants.

3 26. Individuals who received deferred action under DACA were not subject to removal for a  
4 period of two years, subject to renewal. *See* DACA Memorandum.

5 27. DACA recipients also were eligible for work authorizations that allowed them to work  
6 legally in the United States, pursuant to a long-standing federal regulation. *See id.*; 8 C.F.R.  
7 § 274a.12(c)(14) (providing that “an alien who has been granted deferred action” may obtain work  
8 authorization upon demonstrating economic necessity); USCIS FAQs (“Under existing regulations, an  
9 individual whose case has been deferred is eligible to receive employment authorization for the period  
10 of deferred action, provided he or she can demonstrate ‘an economic necessity for employment.’”). An  
11 individual’s work authorization expires at the same time as his or her DACA grant and could be  
12 renewed upon a renewal of a DACA grant.

13 28. DACA recipients were “not considered to be unlawfully present during the period in  
14 which deferred action [was] in effect.” USCIS FAQs.

15 29. Since the program was first introduced in 2012, more than 825,000 individuals received  
16 DACA benefits. This includes an estimated 238,623 residents of the State of California. Dkt. 299-1 at  
17 6.

18 **B. *The Many Benefits of DACA***

19 30. As noted above, DACA recipients have contributed in innumerable ways to the  
20 University.

21 31. As an institution whose core mission is serving the interests of the State of California, the  
22 University seeks “to achieve diversity among its student bodies and among its employees.” *See*  
23 Academic Senate of the Univ. of Cal., *Regents Policy 4400: Policy of University of California Diversity*  
24 *Statement*, UNIV. OF CAL.: BOARD OF REGENTS, [http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/](http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html)  
25 [governance/policies/4400.html](http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/governance/policies/4400.html). The University recognizes the importance of diversity to its academic  
26 mission, as it allows “students and faculty [to] learn to interact effectively with each other, preparing  
27 them to participate in an increasingly complex and pluralistic society.” *Id.* The educational experience  
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1 of all University students is fuller and more enriching when ideas are “born and nurtured in a diverse  
2 community.” *Id.* DACA students and DACA-eligible students at the University are an integral part of  
3 that community. Their talents, perspectives, and experiences contribute enormously to University life.  
4 DACA students, for instance, volunteer as interpreters, bring nuanced perspectives to class discussions,  
5 serve in student government, and serve as leaders in various student organizations. Dkts. 118, Ex. 41 ¶  
6 10; 118-1, Ex. 48 ¶¶ 8, 11.

7 32. DACA recipients also make significant contributions to University life in their role as  
8 employees. They work at UC campuses and in UC medical centers as teaching assistants, research  
9 assistants, post-doctoral fellows, and health care providers. DACA recipients often possess valuable  
10 foreign language skills. By allowing DACA recipients to work lawfully, DACA moved recipients out of  
11 the informal economy, increasing the pool of talent from which UC could fill positions at the University.

12 33. Additionally, DACA recipients who are enrolled as students support themselves and  
13 cover a portion of their tuition through work, including work for the University. For many of these  
14 students, DACA work authorization is what allows them to attend UC and continue each year with their  
15 chosen program of study.

16 34. The University has invested considerable resources in recruiting and retaining these  
17 individuals—as students and employees. It has made scarce enrollment space available to these students  
18 on the basis of their individual achievements. It also has invested substantial time, financial aid,  
19 research dollars, housing benefits, and other resources in them on the expectation that these students will  
20 complete their course of study and become productive members of the communities in which the  
21 University operates, and other communities throughout the nation. The University has significant  
22 interests in retaining this wealth of talent and in continuing to enjoy the many benefits of their  
23 participation in University life.

24 35. Furthermore, by allowing recipients to receive deferred action and obtain work  
25 authorization, DACA opened myriad opportunities to them. As noted above, and as emphasized by the  
26 Supreme Court, DACA recipients became eligible for federal work authorization, which significantly  
27 improved their opportunities for employment, medical benefits, and higher paying jobs. *Dep’t of*  
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1 *Homeland Sec. v. Regents of the Univ. of California*, 140 S. Ct. 1891, 1906 (2020). Under the program,  
2 DACA recipients received social security numbers and therefore were able to access credit more easily.  
3 DACA enabled recipients to obtain driver’s licenses in a number of states where they otherwise could  
4 not. It also protected these individuals’ right to travel freely by making them eligible to receive  
5 “advance parole,” which allowed them to travel abroad temporarily for humanitarian, educational, or  
6 employment purposes, and to return to the United States lawfully. *See* 8 C.F.R. § 212.5(f); USCIS  
7 FAQs.

8 **C. *Defendants’ Attempt to Unlawfully Rescind DACA***

9 36. Although the Administration initially stated a commitment to DACA, *see, e.g.*,  
10 Memorandum from John Kelly, Secretary of Homeland Security, Enforcement of the Immigration Laws  
11 to Serve the National Interest, at 2 (Feb. 20, 2017), on September 5, 2017, Defendants abruptly  
12 announced their plan to rescind the program.

13 37. Prior to DHS’s issuance of the attempted Rescission, then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions  
14 held a press conference in which he asserted that “[o]ur collective wisdom is that the policy is  
15 vulnerable to the same legal and constitutional challenges that the courts recognized with respect to the  
16 DAPA [Deferred Action for Parents of Americans] program.” *See* Attorney General Sessions Delivers  
17 Remarks On DACA (Sept. 5, 2017), [https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-](https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-delivers-remarks-daca)  
18 [delivers-remarks-daca](https://www.justice.gov/opa/speech/attorney-general-sessions-delivers-remarks-daca) (“Press Conference”). Similarly, a September 4, 2017 letter from the Attorney  
19 General to then-Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Duke reiterated that DACA “was effectuated . .  
20 . without proper statutory authority” and “was an unconstitutional exercise of authority by the Executive  
21 Branch.” *See* Letter from Attorney General Sessions to Acting Secretary of DHS Duke (Sept. 4, 2017).  
22 The Attorney General also noted the potential of litigation from several states and that DACA was  
23 “likely” to be enjoined in that yet-to-be-filed litigation.

24 38. After the press conference, Acting Secretary Duke, purporting to act “[i]n the exercise of  
25 [her] authority in establishing national immigration policies and priorities,” formally rescinded the  
26 DACA Memorandum. The attempted Rescission stated that DACA “should be terminated” in light of  
27 the Fifth Circuit’s ruling regarding DAPA in *Texas v. United States*, 809 F.3d 134 (5th Cir. 2015), the  
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1 Supreme Court’s non-precedential affirmance of that ruling by an equally divided court, and the  
2 Attorney General’s September 4 letter. Acting Secretary Duke did not cite any policy reason for  
3 eliminating DACA and instead relied solely on Attorney General Sessions’s assertion of DACA’s  
4 illegality in rescinding the program.

5 39. The President, however, apparently disagreed with DHS’s and his Attorney General’s  
6 views on the legality of DACA. In contradiction to Acting Secretary Duke’s and Attorney General  
7 Sessions’ position that the prior administration had exceeded the authority of the Executive Branch in  
8 establishing DACA, *see* Press Conference, the President tweeted on the night of the attempted  
9 Rescission, “Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was  
10 unable to do). If they can’t, I will revisit this issue!” *See* Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump),  
11 Twitter (Sept. 5, 2017, 5:38 PM), <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/905228667336499200>.

12 40. In fact, the Administration meant to use the attempted Rescission as a bargaining chip  
13 with Congress. For example, on October 8, 2017, President Trump sent a letter to Congressional leaders  
14 setting forth the “Immigration Principles and Policies” that he said “must be included as part of any  
15 legislation addressing the status of [DACA] recipients.” President Donald J. Trump’s Letter to House  
16 and Senate Leaders & Immigration Principles and Policies (Oct. 8, 2017),  
17 [https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-letter-house-senate-leaders-](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-letter-house-senate-leaders-immigration-principles-policies/)  
18 [immigration-principles-policies/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-letter-house-senate-leaders-immigration-principles-policies/). By linking the attempted Rescission to the Administration’s  
19 legislative strategy, Defendants used the decision to rescind DACA to make DACA recipients a  
20 bargaining chip in order to secure support for harsh immigration legislation from members of Congress  
21 who support DACA recipients and would not otherwise support the Administration’s immigration  
22 agenda.

23 41. President Trump then made the ploy explicit in advertising that “[t]he Democrats have  
24 been told, and fully understand, that there can be no DACA without the desperately needed WALL at  
25 the Southern Border and an END to the horrible Chain Migration & ridiculous Lottery System of  
26 Immigration etc. We must protect our Country at all cost!” *See* Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump),  
27 Twitter (Dec. 29, 2017, 5:16 AM), <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/946731576687235072>.

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1           **D.     *The Court Preliminarily Enjoins the Attempted Rescission***

2           42.     On September 8, 2017, the University filed a complaint challenging Defendants’ attempt  
3 to rescind DACA. The initial Complaint contended, among other things, that Defendants’ decision to  
4 rescind DACA was arbitrary and capricious and violated the APA because it was not adequately  
5 explained and failed to account for reliance interests. Dkt. 1.

6           43.     On November 1, 2017, the University moved for provisional relief on its APA claims,  
7 seeking a preliminary injunction prohibiting Defendants from proceeding with the attempted Rescission  
8 during the pendency of the litigation. Dkt. 111.

9           44.     On January 9, 2018, the Court granted in substantial part the University’s motion and  
10 issued a nationwide injunction prohibiting Defendants from rescinding active DACA grants (and  
11 attendant work authorizations) and generally requiring Defendants to continue permitting DACA  
12 renewals consistent with preexisting procedures. Dkt. 234. The Court found that the University was  
13 likely to succeed on its claim that the attempted Rescission was arbitrary and capricious and that the  
14 other preliminary injunction factors were satisfied based on the extraordinary harm the University and  
15 the hundreds of thousands of individual DACA recipients would have faced if DACA were rescinded.  
16 *Id.* at 43–46.

17           45.     On November 8, 2018, the Ninth Circuit upheld the Court’s preliminary injunction in  
18 full. *Regents of the Univ. of California v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, 908 F.3d 476 (9th Cir. 2018).

19           46.     On November 12, 2019, hours before the Supreme Court heard oral argument in the  
20 instant action, President Trump falsely smeared DACA recipients as supposed “hardened criminals,” yet  
21 implored the Supreme Court to reinstate the Rescission with a promise to “deal . . . with Dems for them  
22 to stay!” *See* Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Nov. 12, 2019, 3:45 AM),  
23 <https://twitter.com/realDonaldTrump/status/1194219655717642240>.

24           **E.     *The Supreme Court Rules the Rescission Arbitrary and Capricious***

25           47.     The Supreme Court rejected DHS’s attempt to rescind DACA and upheld the finding that  
26 the Rescission was arbitrary and capricious in violation of the APA. *Regents*, 140 S. Ct. at 1913–15.

1           48.       Specifically, the Supreme Court held that DHS’s attempt to rescind DACA was arbitrary  
2 and capricious and thus violated the APA because the agency failed to consider important aspects of the  
3 issue, including both “the options of retaining forbearance” of deportation of DACA recipients, and  
4 “particular reliance interests” on the DACA program. *Id.* at 1915. Accordingly, the Supreme Court  
5 vacated the attempted Rescission in its entirety, re-establishing the status quo from before the 2017  
6 Duke Memorandum. *See id.* at 1901, 1916 n.7. The Administration should at that time have reinstated  
7 DACA in full, including accepting new applications from those who had aged into the program during  
8 the pendency of the unlawful Rescission.

9           49.       That did not occur. The day after the Supreme Court’s decision, Edlow stated on  
10 USCIS’s official website that the Supreme Court’s decision “has no basis in law” and “merely delays the  
11 President’s lawful ability to end the illegal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals amnesty program,”  
12 which he falsely stated allowed DACA recipients to “take jobs” from “Americans.”

13           **F.       *Defendants’ Arbitrary and Capricious Modifications to DACA***

14           50.       On June 30, 2020, in a letter to purported Acting Secretary Chad Wolf, Attorney General  
15 William Barr withdrew both Attorney General Sessions’s September 4, 2017 letter to Acting Secretary  
16 Duke and an earlier opinion by the Office of Legal Counsel finding that DACA is lawful. Attorney  
17 General Barr explicitly withheld any determination regarding DACA. Rather, he stated that he  
18 “wish[ed] to wipe the slate clean” to give purported Acting Secretary Wolf full discretion over the  
19 DACA program. Letter from Attorney General Barr to Acting Secretary of DHS Wolf (June 30, 2020).  
20 Having eliminated the sole ground for the prior Rescission, and with the Supreme Court having rejected  
21 the Rescission as arbitrary and capricious, one would have expected Defendants to keep DACA in place.

22           51.       On July 17, 2020, a district court in the District of Maryland vacated the attempted  
23 Rescission and ordered the restoration of DACA “to its pre-September 5, 2017 status.” *Casa De*  
24 *Maryland v. U.S. Dep’t of Homeland Sec.*, No. PWG-17-2942 (D. Md. July 17, 2020) ECF No. 97 at 3.

25           52.       On July 28, 2020, purported Acting Secretary Wolf, abandoning the prior rationales for  
26 the Rescission, issued a memorandum making “immediate” modifications to DACA in an effort to buy  
27 time while he conducts a “full reconsideration of the DACA policy.” *See* Wolf Memorandum at 1. The  
28

1 Wolf Memorandum, issued without notice and comment rulemaking, makes “interim” changes to  
2 DACA including rejection of “all pending and future initial requests for DACA,” rejection of “all  
3 pending and future applications for advance parole,” and halving the renewal period from two years to  
4 one. *Id.* at 1–2, 5.

5 53. Specifically, the Wolf Memorandum rescinds both the 2017 Duke and the 2018  
6 memorandum in which then-DHS Secretary Nielsen articulated her “understanding” of the 2017 Duke  
7 memorandum, and makes “certain immediate changes” to DACA “to mitigate” purported Acting  
8 Secretary Wolf’s supposed “enforcement policy concerns” while he considers which ultimate action he  
9 wishes to take. *See id.* at 4. The Wolf Memorandum recites supposed enforcement policy concerns,  
10 none of which has anything to do with the welfare of DACA recipients, their families, or the national  
11 economy, among other interests noted by the Supreme Court. Rather, the Wolf Memorandum makes  
12 explicit that Defendants once more wish to use DACA recipients as a bargaining chip, stating that  
13 “rescinding DACA entirely may well create a more pressing need for Congress to decide whether it  
14 wants to address this issue.” *Id.* at 4–5. The idea that hundreds of thousands of people should be  
15 purposefully and grievously injured in order to prompt congressional action is an appalling breach of the  
16 basic principle that the government should aim to improve, rather than harm, people’s lives.

17 54. The Wolf Memorandum then states that given his purported enforcement policy  
18 concerns, “some changes should immediately be made” to DACA to “limit its scope” while purported  
19 Acting Secretary Wolf considers whether the program “should be maintained, rescinded, or modified”—  
20 an Orwellian euphemism for eliminating DACA for vast numbers of otherwise eligible individuals who,  
21 by sheer accident of their birth year, are now denied important work and health care benefits in the midst  
22 of a pandemic. *Id.* at 5.

23 55. The Wolf Memorandum asserts that the immediate changes will not materially encroach  
24 on the reliance interests of DACA recipients. It claims, for example, that reliance interests are not  
25 “significantly affected” by cutting the renewal periods in half because this change might have the  
26 “potential” benefit of lessening the impact in case purported Acting Secretary Wolf “ultimately  
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1 decide[s] to rescind” the program. *Id.* at 5–6. This tenuous chain of possibilities, however, cannot offer  
2 an adequate explanation for the significant burden of limiting the renewal periods.

3 56. The Wolf Memorandum further brushes aside the steep application fees DACA recipients  
4 must now pay twice as often merely because of purported Acting Secretary Wolf’s “strong desire to  
5 limit the scope of the policy.” *See id.* at 6–7. Nor does it address the fact that DACA recipients who  
6 paid for a two-year renewal application but whose applications have not yet been granted can now only  
7 benefit from their DACA grants for one year.

8 57. And the Wolf Memorandum claims that no reliance interests exist at all for would-be  
9 DACA recipients who are no longer eligible to apply for DACA. It merely states that it “makes sense to  
10 continue” the “status quo” of not requiring consideration of new DACA requests while DHS evaluates  
11 the program. *Id.* at 6. This purported “status quo” was only the status quo because of Defendants’  
12 illegal 2017 Rescission. The proper status quo is the restoration of DACA as it would have existed  
13 absent the illegal Rescission.

14 58. At bottom, none of the explanations proffered by the Wolf Memorandum is remotely  
15 plausible. The Wolf Memorandum fails to follow the Supreme Court’s direction to consider alternative  
16 ways of mitigating those supposed enforcement policy concerns. Nor does it explain why Defendants  
17 have abandoned Defendants’ prior justifications based on DACA’s alleged illegality and their supposed  
18 concerns about executive overreach. Instead, Defendants’ action seems calculated to harm DACA based  
19 on no clear rationale at all.

20 59. On August 21, 2020, Edlow issued additional guidance regarding the implementation of  
21 the Wolf Memorandum. Memorandum from Joseph Edlow, *Implementing Acting Secretary Chad*  
22 *Wolf’s July 28, 2020 Memorandum* (Aug. 21, 2020) (“Edlow Memorandum”). Among other things, the  
23 Edlow Memorandum generally instructs that any DACA renewal application filed “more than 150 days  
24 before the [applicant’s] current DACA period expires” should be rejected. Edlow Memorandum at 3–5.  
25 According to the Memorandum, rejecting—rather than simply holding—early renewal applications will  
26 promote “efficient use of agency resources.” *Id.* at 5. Further, the Memorandum asserts that “it is not  
27 necessary to accept DACA renewal requests more than 150 days before the [applicant’s] current DACA  
28



1 period expires,” because, according to USCIS, most renewal applications are processed in fewer than  
2 150 days. *Id.*

3 60. In practice, this 150-day rule, coupled with growing delays in the processing of DACA  
4 renewal applications, will prevent many DACA recipients from applying for renewal with adequate time  
5 for USCIS to adjudicate and approve the renewal request before the prior DACA grant expires. This  
6 will lead to lapses in DACA protections and employment authorization, terminations from employment,  
7 and interruptions in access to higher education.

8 61. The Edlow Memorandum also acknowledges that the one-year limitation the Wolf  
9 Memorandum places on DACA renewals effectively doubles the cost of renewals. *Id.* at 5–6. Although  
10 the Edlow Memorandum recognizes that the Wolf Memorandum “asked USCIS to consider whether it is  
11 possible to reduce renewal fees,” the Edlow Memorandum proposes no reduction, instead offering only  
12 the vague representation that “USCIS is currently considering the merits and feasibility of reducing  
13 DACA-related fees.” *Id.*

14 **G. *The Unlawful Designation of Chad Wolf as Purported Acting Secretary of DHS, and***  
15 ***of Joseph Edlow as Purported USCIS Deputy Director for Policy.***

16 62. Although Defendant Wolf has purported to be Acting Secretary of the Department of  
17 Homeland Security since November 13, 2019, he has no legally valid claim to that title. He thus lacked  
18 authority to issue the Wolf Memorandum, which is void and lacks any legal force.

19 63. This is not an issue of mere formality—Defendant Wolf’s unauthorized actions as  
20 purported Acting Secretary implicate constitutional concerns. The Constitution’s Appointments Clause  
21 provides that the president

22 shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall  
23 appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the  
24 supreme Court, *and all other Officers of the United States*, whose  
25 Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for, and which shall be  
26 established by Law: but the Congress may by Law vest the Appointment of  
27 such inferior Officers, as they think proper, in the President alone, in the  
28 Courts of Law, or in the Heads of Departments.

U.S. Const. art. II, § 2, cl. 2 (emphasis added).

1           64. Because the Secretary of Homeland Security is a principal Officer (rather than inferior  
2 Officer), the Appointments Clause requires that the person holding office of Secretary be appointed by  
3 the President “with the Advice and Consent of the Senate.” *Id.*

4           65. Federal statute also requires that the Secretary of Homeland Security be nominated by the  
5 president and confirmed by the Senate. 6 U.S.C. § 112(a)(1).

6           66. The FVRA establishes the “exclusive means for temporarily authorizing an acting official  
7 to perform the functions and duties of any office of an Executive agency . . . for which appointment is  
8 required to be made by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate,” unless another  
9 statute expressly provides for another means of temporarily designating an acting officer. 5 U.S.C. §  
10 3347(a).

11           67. The FVRA does not provide the President with the power to circumvent fundamental  
12 separation of powers by indefinitely installing “acting” officials without the advice and consent of the  
13 Senate. Among other things, the FVRA limits the time during which an office may be filled by an  
14 acting official, providing that “the person serving as an acting officer . . . may serve in the office . . . for  
15 no longer than 210 days beginning on the date the vacancy occurs.” *Id.* § 3346.

16           68. Separately, the Homeland Security Act (“HSA”), rather than the FVRA, governs the  
17 order of succession for the position of Acting Secretary of Homeland Security when the office of the  
18 Secretary is vacant. *See* 6 U.S.C. § 113(a)(1)(A), (g).

19           69. The HSA provides that any vacancy in the office of the Secretary of Homeland Security  
20 is to be filled by the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security or, if that office is likewise vacant, by the  
21 Under Secretary for Management. *Id.* § 113(a)(1)(A), (g)(1). The HSA permits the Secretary of  
22 Homeland Security to establish a further succession order to apply in the event the offices of both the  
23 Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Under Secretary for Management are vacant. *Id.*  
24 § 113(g)(2).

25           70. DHS has established multiple orders of succession and/or delegations pertaining to the  
26 office of the Secretary and other DHS offices. *See* Dep’t of Homeland Sec., Delegation No. 00106,  
27 Revision No. 08.5 (Dec. 15, 2016) (“DHS Orders”).  
28

1           71. From at least December 15, 2016, through and beyond April 11, 2019, DHS Orders  
2 Section II.A stated: “In case of the Secretary’s death, *resignation*, or inability to perform the functions of  
3 the Office, *the orderly succession of officials is governed by Executive Order 13753*, amended on  
4 December 9, 2016.” *Id.* (emphases added).

5           72. Executive Order 13753, in turn, requires succession to the Acting Secretary role in the  
6 following order: (1) the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security; (2) the Under Secretary for  
7 Management; (3) the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; (4) the Under  
8 Secretary for National Protection and Programs; (5) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology;  
9 (6) the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis; and (7) Commissioner of U.S. Customs and  
10 Border Protection.

11           73. From at least December 15, 2016, through and beyond April 11, 2019, DHS Orders  
12 Section II.B provided: “I [the Secretary of Homeland Security] hereby delegate to the officials  
13 occupying the identified positions *in the order listed ([at] Annex A)*, my authority to exercise the powers  
14 and perform the functions and duties of my office, to the extent not otherwise prohibited by law, *in the*  
15 *event I am unavailable to act during a disaster or catastrophic emergency.*” DHS Orders § II.B  
16 (emphases added).

17           74. As of April 10, 2019, Annex A, which applied only when the Secretary is “unavailable to  
18 act during a disaster or catastrophic emergency,” and not in the event of resignation, placed the  
19 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection third in the succession order, behind the Deputy  
20 Secretary of Homeland Security and the Under Secretary for Management. DHS Orders Annex A. If,  
21 however, the Secretary of Homeland Security resigned, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border  
22 Protection remained seventh in the standard order of succession. *See* Exec. Order No. 13753 § 1.

23           75. On or about April 9 or 10, 2019, then-Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen  
24 issued an amendment to DHS Orders Annex A (“April 2019 Amendment”). Again, by its explicit terms  
25 Annex A only applies when the Secretary is “unavailable to act *during a disaster or catastrophic*  
26 *emergency.*” DHS, *Orders of Succession and Delegations of Authorities for Named Positions*,  
27 Delegation No. 00106, Revision No. 08.5 (Apr. 10, 2019). The amended text listed the Commissioner  
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1 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection third behind the Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and  
2 Under Secretary for Management. The Amendment to Annex A labeled and identified the Annex not as  
3 an “order of succession,” but instead as an “Order for Delegation of Authority.”

4 76. Annex A did not—and does not—apply to succession in the case of *resignation* of the  
5 Secretary of Homeland Security. The April 2019 Amendment did not direct any changes to the text of  
6 DHS Orders Section II.A. Thus, notwithstanding the April 2019 Amendment, DHS Orders Section II.A  
7 still required following the order of succession specified in Executive Order 13753 in the event of a  
8 Secretary’s resignation.

9 77. Secretary Nielsen, the most recent Senate-confirmed Secretary of Homeland Security,  
10 resigned her position effective no later than April 10, 2019.

11 78. Following Secretary Nielsen’s resignation, on April 11, 2019, Kevin McAleenan, who  
12 was then serving as CBP Commissioner, purportedly, but unlawfully, assumed the position of Acting  
13 Secretary of Homeland Security.

14 79. McAleenan’s purported assumption of the Acting Secretary office was unlawful because,  
15 under the applicable DHS Orders, two other Senate-confirmed individuals were *ahead* of McAleenan to  
16 succeed to that office: Christopher Krebs, who then served as the Senate-confirmed Under Secretary for  
17 National Protection and Programs, and David Glawe, who then served as the Senate-confirmed Under  
18 Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis.

19 80. Because McAleenan’s purported succession was unlawful under the HSA and DHS  
20 Orders of Succession and Delegations, he had no valid legal claim to the office of Acting Secretary of  
21 Homeland Security, and could not lawfully exercise the authority of that office.

22 81. On November 8, 2019, the 211th day of his purported tenure as Acting Secretary,  
23 McAleenan issued a directive attempting to amend the order of succession for the Secretary of  
24 Homeland Security to elevate the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to be fourth in line to  
25 lead the agency in the event of the Secretary’s resignation. DHS, *Orders of Succession and Delegations*  
26 *of Authorities for Named Positions*, Delegation No. 00106, Revision No. 08.6 (Nov. 8, 2019).

1           82. Unlike Secretary Nielsen’s April 2019 Amendment, McAleenan *did* purport to change  
2 DHS Orders Section II.A such that, like Section II.B, it would now rely upon Annex A to establish the  
3 order of succession; thus Annex A for the first time would apply in the event of the Secretary of  
4 Homeland Security’s *resignation*. See Amendment to the Order of Succession for the Secretary of  
5 Homeland Security. McAleenan’s attempted change confirmed the invalidity of his own service as  
6 Acting Secretary, since the change would have been superfluous if Annex A had otherwise already  
7 applied to establish the succession order in the event of the Secretary’s resignation.

8           83. McAleenan likewise purported to change *the order of the positions listed in Annex A*,  
9 moving the position of Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans to fourth in line, behind only the  
10 then-vacant Offices of Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security and Under Secretary for Management, as  
11 well as the Office then held by McAleenan, Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection. *Id.*

12           84. McAleenan’s attempted directive was without force of law because McAleenan was not  
13 validly serving as Acting Secretary under the HSA, as his purported succession to the office of Acting  
14 Secretary violated the applicable DHS order of succession.

15           85. Likewise, at the time he purported to change the Acting Secretary succession order,  
16 McAleenan’s purported service as Acting Secretary violated the FVRA, as his service had already  
17 exceeded the 210-day time limit for acting-official service set forth in that statute.

18           86. Irrespective of the legality of his purported service as Acting Secretary, McAleenan was  
19 not legally authorized to alter the DHS order of succession, as the HSA extends such power only to the  
20 Secretary of Homeland Security, not the Acting Secretary. 6 U.S.C. § 113(g)(2) (“the *Secretary* may  
21 designate such other officers of the Department in further order of succession to serve as *Acting*  
22 *Secretary*” (emphases added)).

23           87. On October 11, 2019, McAleenan announced his resignation as Acting Secretary.

24           88. On November 13, 2019, Defendant Wolf, who on that day was confirmed as Under  
25 Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans, purported to assume the office of Acting Secretary of  
26 Homeland Security according to McAleenan’s invalid succession directive.

1           89. Because the succession directive that purported to designate Defendant Wolf as Acting  
2 Secretary was unlawful and invalid, Defendant Wolf was not, and has never been, the Acting Secretary  
3 of Homeland Security according to the Homeland Security Act.

4           90. Likewise, Defendant Wolf’s purported service as Acting Secretary violates, and has  
5 always violated, the FRVA, because the office of Secretary of Homeland Security had been vacant for  
6 more than 210 days before Defendant Wolf purported to assume the office of Acting Secretary. On  
7 November 6, 2019, the Office of the Secretary of Homeland Security had been vacant for 210 days since  
8 April 10, 2019, the date that former Secretary Nielsen purported to resign. After November 6, 2019, at  
9 the latest, the FVRA required the office to “remain vacant” until the president submitted a new nominee  
10 for Senate confirmation. 5 U.S.C. § 3348(b)(1). Defendant Wolf began serving as Acting DHS  
11 Secretary on November 13, 2019, after the 210-day period under the FVRA had run.

12           91. On August 14, 2020, the Government Accountability Office (“GAO”) issued an opinion  
13 reviewing the legality of Defendant Wolf’s designation as Acting DHS Secretary and concluded that  
14 Wolf was improperly designated. GAO, *Matter of Department of Homeland Security – Legality of*  
15 *Service of Acting Secretary of Homeland Security and Service of Senior Official Performing the Duties*  
16 *of Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security*, B-331650 (Aug. 14, 2020).

17           92. DHS requested that GAO rescind its decision, but GAO affirmed its decision after  
18 concluding that DHS had not shown material errors of fact or law, nor provided information not  
19 previously considered that warranted reversal or modification of the decision. GAO, *Department of*  
20 *Homeland Security – Legality of Service of Acting Secretary of Homeland Security and Service of Senior*  
21 *Official Performing the Duties of Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security – Reconsideration*, B-332451,  
22 August 21, 2020.

23           93. On September 10, 2020, in response to the GAO opinion and litigation over the legality  
24 of purported Acting Secretary Wolf’s service, Peter Gaynor, Administrator of the Federal Emergency  
25 Management Agency, purporting to exercise the functions of Acting Secretary “[a]s the most senior  
26 successor listed” under Executive Order No. 13753, issued an order to make another change to the DHS  
27 order of succession. This order purported to re-issue the November 2019 order of succession Kevin  
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1 McAleenan unlawfully attempted to enact, thereby placing Defendant Wolf's position above Gaynor's  
2 own position in the order of succession, and purportedly retroactively rendering Wolf the Acting  
3 Secretary of Homeland Security.

4 94. Gaynor, however, was never lawfully the Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, and  
5 lacked any power to issue such order. The succession orders lawfully in place upon Secretary Nielsen's  
6 resignation, Executive Order 13753, provided that Christopher Krebs became Acting Secretary upon  
7 Secretary Nielsen's resignation. Because Krebs never resigned that role, there was no vacancy for Peter  
8 Gaynor to fill on September 10, 2020.

9 95. In addition, as an inferior officer, Gaynor was not constitutionally authorized to modify  
10 the DHS order of succession.

11 96. Gaynor also failed to report his purported acting service to the Comptroller General and  
12 Congress, as the FVRA requires. 5 U.S.C. § 3349(a).

13 97. Irrespective of the legality of Gaynor's purported service as Acting Secretary, he was not  
14 legally authorized to alter the DHS order of succession, as the HSA extends such power only to the  
15 Secretary of Homeland Security, not the Acting Secretary. 6 U.S.C. § 113(g)(2) ("the *Secretary* may  
16 designate such other officers of the Department in further order of succession to serve as *Acting*  
17 *Secretary*" (emphases added)).

18 98. Moreover, Gaynor never resigned his purported role as Acting Secretary, leaving no  
19 vacancy for Defendant Wolf to purportedly fill.

20 99. Also on September 10, 2020, President Trump nominated Defendant Wolf as Secretary of  
21 Homeland Security.

22 100. In addition to the other legal defects rendering his purported service as Acting Secretary  
23 unlawful, having been nominated as Secretary of Homeland Security, Defendant Wolf thereby became  
24 statutorily ineligible to serve as Acting Secretary of Homeland Security under the FVRA, 5 U.S.C.  
25 § 3345(b)(1).  
26  
27  
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1 101. On September 17, 2020, Defendant Wolf, “out of an abundance of caution,” purported to  
2 ratify his actions taken prior to the order issued by Gaynor on September 10, 2020, 85 Fed. Reg. 59,651  
3 (Sept. 23, 2020).

4 102. On October 7, 2020, Defendant Wolf purported to ratify actions taken by Commissioner  
5 McAleenan and Edlow. Ratification of Department Actions, 85 Fed. Reg. 65,653 (Oct. 16, 2020).

6 103. As a result of Defendant Wolf’s unlawful service as purported Acting DHS Secretary,  
7 Edlow’s service as purported USCIS Deputy Director for Policy is also unlawful.

8 104. Defendant Wolf purportedly designated Edlow Deputy Director for Policy at USCIS on  
9 February 19, 2020.

10 105. Because he was not lawfully serving as Acting Secretary, Defendant Wolf lacked any  
11 legal authority to designate Edlow to the position of USCIS Deputy Director for Policy.

12 106. Nor can Defendant Wolf’s September 17, 2020 memorandum legitimize either Defendant  
13 Wolf or Edlow’s unlawful actions, as the FVRA prohibits the ratification of these actions. *See* 5 U.S.C.  
14 § 3348(b)(1), (d)(1)–(2) (“An action taken by any person who is not acting under section 3345, 3346, or  
15 3347 . . . shall have no force or effect” and “may not be ratified.”).

16 107. In turn, Edlow is not lawfully serving as, and has never had any lawful basis to serve as,  
17 USCIS Deputy Director for Policy. Thus, the Edlow Memorandum purportedly issued pursuant to  
18 Edlow’s authority as USCIS Deputy Director for Policy is void and lacks any legal force.

19 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
20 **Agency Action That Is Arbitrary and Capricious,**  
21 **An Abuse of Discretion, and Otherwise Not In Accordance with Law**  
22 **in Violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(A)–(C)**

23 108. The above paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.

24 109. DHS is an agency subject to the requirements of the APA. 5 U.S.C. § 701(b)(1).

25 110. The Wolf Memorandum, issued by DHS, constitutes final agency action that is  
26 reviewable by this Court under the APA.

27 111. The Edlow Memorandum, issued by USCIS, constitutes final agency action that is  
28 reviewable by this Court under the APA.



1           112. The APA provides that courts “shall . . . hold unlawful and set aside” final agency action  
2 that is “arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with law”; “contrary  
3 to constitutional right, power, privilege, or immunity”; and “in excess of statutory jurisdiction, authority,  
4 or limitations, or short of statutory right.” *Id.* § 706(2)(A)–(C).

5           113. Pursuant to the arbitrary-and-capricious standard, an agency must engage in “reasoned  
6 decisionmaking.” *Michigan v. EPA*, 576 U. S. 743, 750 (2015). A court reviewing such a decision must  
7 assess whether the decision was “based on a consideration of the relevant factors and whether there has  
8 been a clear error of judgment.” *Citizens to Preserve Overton Park, Inc. v. Volpe*, 401 U.S. 402, 416  
9 (1971); *San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Auth. v. Jewell*, 747 F.3d 581, 601 (9th Cir. 2014).

10           114. The Wolf Memorandum is arbitrary and capricious under this standard—as was the  
11 unsuccessful Rescission, *see Regents*, 140 S. Ct. at 1915—for the following reasons among others.

12           115. **First**, in their attempt to modify DACA, Defendants have brushed aside and ignored the  
13 relevant factors set out by the Supreme Court a mere 40 days earlier. *Id.*

14           116. Significantly, the Wolf Memorandum fails to adequately address the reliance interests  
15 occasioned by DACA, instead relying on a tenuous chain of inferences in purporting to consider such  
16 interests. *Id.* The Wolf Memorandum, for example, brushes aside the significant burden the doubling of  
17 application fees imposes on DACA recipients such as the University’s students. And in merely stating  
18 that it “makes sense” to keep the supposed “status quo” of rejecting new DACA requests during the  
19 pendency of this litigation, the Wolf Memorandum fails to consider the detrimental effects of stripping  
20 otherwise eligible individuals of the ability to apply for DACA in light of the current global crisis.

21 Where, as here, significant reliance interests are at stake, Defendants must, in addition to demonstrating  
22 that “there are good reasons” for the newest policy, offer “a reasoned explanation . . . for disregarding  
23 facts and circumstances that underlay or were engendered by the prior policy.” *FCC v. Fox Television*  
24 *Stations, Inc.*, 556 U.S. 502, 515–16 (2009).

25           117. **Second**, in outright rejecting all pending and future DACA applications, the Wolf  
26 Memorandum fails to explain its arbitrary treatment of individuals who are now otherwise DACA-  
27 eligible simply because they were not yet old enough to apply before the unlawful Rescission. The  
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1 desire to maintain the “status quo” is specious, because the “status quo” of failing to accept new initial  
2 DACA applications was created by the unlawful Rescission, which has now been set aside by the courts.

3 118. *Third*, the Wolf Memorandum is arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and not  
4 in accordance with law because it effectively doubles the fees for renewal applications without  
5 explanation, and because the increase creates an inconsistency with a previous rulemaking.

6 119. *Fourth*, the Wolf Memorandum is arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and  
7 not in accordance with law because it continues a pattern of using the lives of DACA recipients as a  
8 bargaining chip for Defendants’ political advantage with scant regard for the reliance interests at play.

9 120. *Fifth*, because Defendant Wolf has been unlawfully serving as purported Acting  
10 Secretary of Homeland Security since November 13, 2019, he has no authority to take any actions in  
11 that capacity. His purported issuance of the Wolf Memorandum is thus not in accordance with law, in  
12 violation of the Homeland Security Act and Vacancies Reform Act, in violation of the Appointments  
13 Clause, and is invalid and void.

14 121. The Edlow Memorandum is also arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, and  
15 otherwise not in accordance with law because it: (1) was issued by an individual who did not have legal  
16 authority to issue the Memorandum because Edlow was designated to serve in his position by Defendant  
17 Wolf, who was and is unlawfully serving as Acting DHS Secretary, and (2) fails to offer a reasoned  
18 basis for instructing the rejection of DACA renewal applications filed more than 150 days before the  
19 applicant’s current DACA grant expires, and fails to consider the harmful consequences of the 150-day  
20 rule—namely, that it will result in lapses in DACA protections and work authorization, and thus lapses  
21 in employment and access to education and healthcare.

22 122. The University and its students were harmed and continue to be harmed by these  
23 unlawful acts.

24 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
25 **Agency Action Without Observance of Procedure Required by Law**  
26 **in Violation of 5 U.S.C. § 706(2)(D)**

27 123. The above paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.  
28



1           131. **First**, UC students who are DACA recipients have constitutionally-protected interests in  
2 the benefits that the DACA program provides them, including the ability to work, to pursue  
3 opportunities in higher education, to more readily obtain driver’s licenses and access lines of credit, to  
4 obtain jobs, and to access certain Social Security and Medicare benefits. These DACA recipients paid  
5 for a two-year renewal application, but can now only receive benefits for one year. The terms of their  
6 existing participant has been changed, depriving them of such benefits, with no forewarning.

7           132. **Second**, UC students with pending applications filed before the Wolf Memorandum  
8 issued have a constitutional right to have notice and an opportunity to be heard under the Due Process  
9 clause. Under the true status quo of the DACA program—as acknowledged by the Supreme Court in  
10 *Regents* and the court in *Casa de Maryland*—Defendants were required to adjudicate new applications  
11 for DACA, applications for two-year DACA renewals, and applications for advance parole.  
12 Defendants’ outright retroactive rejection of those applications violates those otherwise-DACA eligible  
13 applicants’ due process rights.

14           133. **Third**, the University also has constitutionally-protected interests in the multiple  
15 educational benefits that flow from a diverse student body. Thousands of DACA students have earned  
16 prized places as undergraduate and graduate students at the University of California through their record  
17 of high—even extraordinary—personal achievement in high school and college. In reliance on DACA,  
18 the University has chosen to make scarce enrollment space available to these students and to invest in  
19 them substantial time, financial aid, research dollars, housing benefits, and other resources, on the  
20 expectation that these students will complete their course of study and become productive members of  
21 the communities in which the University operates, and other communities throughout the nation. If  
22 these students leave the University before completing their education, UC will lose the benefits it  
23 derives from their contributions, as well as the value of the time and money it invested in these students  
24 with the expectation that they would be allowed to graduate and apply their talents in the United States  
25 job market.



1 144. Pursuant to those authorities, Defendant Wolf is not, and has never been, legally  
2 authorized to hold the position of Acting Secretary, or to perform the functions and duties of that office.

3 145. Furthermore, Defendant Wolf's purported service as Acting Secretary, and purported  
4 exercise of the functions and duties of that office, are unlawful under the FVRA because the applicable  
5 210-day time limit for an Acting Secretary to serve has expired (and had already expired at the time that  
6 Defendant Wolf purported to assume the office of Acting Secretary). Since the applicable time limit  
7 under the FVRA has expired, Defendant Wolf's actions "shall have no force or effect" and "may not be  
8 ratified." 5 U.S.C. § 3348(d)(1)–(2).

9 146. Because Defendant Wolf is purporting to serve as Acting Secretary, and purporting to  
10 perform the functions and duties of the Secretary of Homeland Security without having been confirmed  
11 by the Senate, and without any other legal authority to do so, his purported issuance of the Wolf  
12 Memorandum was ultra vires, and therefore invalid and void.

13 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**  
14 **Ultra Vires Agency Action**

15 147. The above paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference.

16 148. Courts have equitable authority to enjoin ultra vires agency action. *See, e.g., Larson v.*  
17 *Domestic & Foreign Com. Corp.*, 337 U.S. 682, 689 (1949).

18 149. Because Defendant Wolf is purporting to serve as Acting Secretary, and purporting to  
19 perform the functions and duties of the Secretary of Homeland Security without having been confirmed  
20 by the Senate, and without any other legal authority to do so, his purported issuance of the Wolf  
21 Memorandum was ultra vires, and therefore invalid and void.

22 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

23 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully request that this Court:

- 24 A. Vacate and set aside the Wolf Memorandum;  
25 B. Vacate and set aside the Edlow Memorandum;  
26 C. Declare that the Wolf Memorandum is void and without legal force or effect;  
27 D. Declare that the Edlow Memorandum is void and without legal force or effect;

1           E.     Declare that the Wolf Memorandum is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of  
2 discretion, otherwise not in accordance with law, and without observance of procedure required  
3 by law in violation of 5 U.S.C. §§ 702–706;

4           F.     Declare that the Edlow Memorandum is arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of  
5 discretion, and otherwise not in accordance with law in violation of 5 U.S.C. §§ 702–706;

6           G.     Declare that the Department of Homeland Security must consider new  
7 applications from individuals who are eligible under the criteria set by the 2012 DACA  
8 Memorandum;

9           H.     Declare that the Wolf Memorandum is in violation of the Constitution and  
10 contrary to the laws of the United States;

11          I.     Declare that the Edlow Memorandum is in violation of the Constitution and  
12 contrary to the laws of the United States;

13          J.     Declare that Defendant Wolf is not lawfully serving as Secretary of Homeland  
14 Security or Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, and any policies, orders, or directives he  
15 issues are void;

16          K.     Declare that Edlow is not lawfully serving as USCIS Deputy Director for Policy,  
17 and any policies, orders, or directives he issues are void;

18          L.     Preliminarily and permanently enjoin and restrain Defendants, their agents,  
19 servants, employees, attorneys, and all persons in active concert or participation with any of  
20 them, from implementing or enforcing the Wolf Memorandum or the Edlow Memorandum and  
21 from taking any other action to rescind DACA that is not in compliance with applicable law;

22          M.     Preliminarily and permanently enjoin and restrain Defendant Wolf from  
23 exercising or performing any of the powers or duties of the office of Secretary of Homeland  
24 Security or Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, and from holding himself out as the  
25 Secretary of Homeland Security or Acting Secretary of Homeland Security;

26          N.     Grant such further relief as this Court deems just and proper.  
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DATED: November 2, 2020

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