

## **CIRI Talking Points on *Texas v. United States***

May 28, 2015

### *General Talking Points*

- **Immigrants and their Advocates are Resilient.** Those who fight for immigration action have always been resilient. We've been through ups and down, but we refuse to give up. It's not over until we've opened the threshold to our democracy for the millions of families who have long made America their home. Make no mistake, it will happen.
- **We remain confident** that implementation is inevitable, and in communities across the country we are continuing to move forward to protect DAPA and expanded DACA, not just in the courts, but also within our communities.
- **Immigrant communities have waited long enough.** Immigrants and their advocates will continue to push for policies that make their communities safer and more inclusive.
- **History and the law are on our side and we vote.** We have to turn the anger and frustration we feel into action. If you are a US citizen and you are not registered to vote, register. If you are registered, then pledge to vote. And if you can't vote, pledge to help those who can get to the polls.

### *Court-Decision Talking Points*

- **This is not the final ruling on the preliminary injunction.** This 5<sup>th</sup> circuit court decision applies only to the request for an emergency stay while the federal government's appeal of the district court's decision moves forward. It is not the Fifth Circuit's final ruling on whether the district court was correct in granting the preliminary injunction and blocking the immigration actions nationwide.
- **The court's decision is outside the legal mainstream.** Legal leaders — on both sides of the ideological spectrum — agree that the president's actions are constitutional. We are confident that the courts will agree.
- **We will move forward.** Today's news was deeply disappointing, but we will not be deterred. We fought hard to ensure that millions of aspiring Americans could come forward and apply for the opportunity to contribute more fully to their communities. We will continue to fight — in our communities, in Washington, and in the courtroom — until the immigration initiatives President Obama announced last year become reality.
- **Proponents of the lawsuit are playing politics with peoples' lives.** While millions of aspiring Americans wait for the opportunity to bring their economies and communities forward, some politicians have made it their mission to keep all of us in reverse.

### *CIRI-Specific Talking Points*

- We remain confident that the President's actions will be upheld.
- We continue to be fully committed to preparing to assist millions of potentially eligible immigrants.
- As part of that preparation, in the next three months, we'll be boosting our work to help build capacity across the field of organizations who serve and organize immigrants, including initiatives in these areas:
  - communications that keep immigrant communities and allies engaged and active in preparations
  - development of new online and mobile-device based tools that help screen for eligibility for existing immigration benefits
  - administrative advocacy on aspects of executive action that have not been enjoined, such as prosecutorial discretion
  - legal training, especially related to non-profits' capacity to offer immigration services (e.g., via Board of Immigration Appeals "recognition/accreditation"), capacity that will benefit immigrant families no matter what the courts decide
  - training of community-based trainers who, in turn, train trusted community volunteers as "Community Navigators"