



**For Immediate Release:**  
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**STATEMENT: New Law Allowing DACA Recipients and Permanent Residents to Become Police Officers, a Victory for Better Policing, Diversity and Inclusion**

**CHICAGO** - The following is a statement from the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), a coalition that works to advance the wellbeing of Latinos throughout Illinois, in response to Illinois' [new law allowing for DACA recipients and permanent residents to become police officers](#):

“The State of Illinois’ decision to allow DACA recipients and permanent residents to apply to become police officers in Illinois is a victory for all Illinoisans. The residents of this state and any municipality in need of law enforcement will now have the opportunity to recruit talented individuals who are committed to keeping our communities safe. We support all elected officials who are eliminating barriers, improving police practices, and increasing diversity and inclusion in all workplaces.

“The Illinois Latino Agenda knows this law will have a positive impact on creating more diverse police departments throughout Illinois, which [studies have shown](#) can foster greater trust between police and the communities they serve, improve policing practices, and create safer communities.

“This law is an investment in community wellbeing, and we condemn the divisive rhetoric that is attempting to devalue the talent and qualifications of DACA recipients and permanent residents who are interested in joining police departments in Illinois. These potential police officers are Illinoisans who are legally allowed to work in the U.S. and legally allowed to own a firearm. They are embedded in our communities, they pay taxes, and there is no reason they should not be able to serve their communities as members of law enforcement. At a time when many communities are facing officer shortages, this is a common-sense reform that will improve safety across the state.

“Since the founding of the United States over two centuries ago, US permanent residents have been welcomed to serve in the American military. [Approximately 8,000 join the US military each year](#) and around 35,000 are currently serving on active duty. Now, thanks to Illinois’ new law, they can also protect our local communities.”

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