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Monday, June 9, 2014

STATEMENT ON SUPREME COURT RULING: SCIALABBA V. CUELLAR DE OSORIO ***Ruling is Shortsighted and Counter to Family Reunification***

The San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission is extremely disappointed and saddened at today's U.S. Supreme Court Ruling on *Scialabba v. Cuellar de Osorio* (formerly *Mayorkas v. Cuellar de Osorio*). The ruling on the application of the Child Status Protection Act (CSPA), will make most children who turn 21 while their parents' immigration applications are still pending restart the entire immigration process. The Commission considers the ruling a slap in the face to immigrant children and counter keeping immigrant families together.

The Court's 5-4 ruling that CSPA applies only to a narrow subset of aged-out children and not to all children of family immigrant applicants who turn 21 while their parents' immigration applications are still pending is deplorable. Because of this shortsighted ruling, innocent young adults will likely be separated from family members for years and decades.

Since 1997, the San Francisco Immigrant Rights Commission (IRC) has been a champion for the inclusion and integration of San Francisco's immigrant residents and workers. From upholding sanctuary city ordinances to language rights and immigration reform, the IRC has fought for fair and humane policies at the local, state and federal levels. The Commission held hearings in 2009 and 2013 on Comprehensive Immigration Reform, hearing directly from experts and community members on the impacts of the nation's broken immigration laws on local families and communities.

Keeping families united has been a major objective of the Commission. In San Francisco, where an estimated 60 percent of immigrants are from Asia, immigration visa backlogs have created wait periods of up to 20 years. The Commission has repeatedly called for fair and humane immigration policies that preserve dignity and family unity. The Commission urges this nation's policymakers to enact comprehensive immigration reform now and not to ignore millions of immigrants who continue to live in limbo, unsure of their status and unable to move forward to new futures.