

Temporary relief on DACA

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The U.S. Supreme Court refused Monday to bypass the federal circuit courts in the legal dispute over the Trump administration's cancellation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, meaning that young immigrants known as Dreamers will be able to continue renewing their legal protections from deportation, at least for the time being.

The court rejected the administration's highly unusual bid to get the justices to intervene before the cases are fully considered in the lower courts, after federal judges in California and Brooklyn allowed the so-called DACA program to go forward for immigrants who had been granted a shield from immigration enforcement.

The petition to intervene was "denied without prejudice," the court said in a short statement. "It is assumed that the Court of Appeals will proceed expedi-

tiously to decide this case."

In September, President Donald Trump authorized a "wind down" this year of DACA, a mechanism put in place via executive action by former President Barack Obama to give young immigrants a chance to stay while wider immigration reforms were on hold. While Trump has made sympathetic statements about those immigrants, brought to the country illegally as children, his administration has argued against DACA as an excess of executive authority on a matter that should be resolved by Congress.

The Supreme Court's decision spells relief — at least for the short term — for thousands of young immigrants and their families on Long Island, part of a larger group of nearly 800,000 DACA recipients across the country.

The White House responded Monday by criticizing the January decision by U.S. District Judge William Alsup in San Francisco to allow renewals to go forward.

White House spokesman Raj Shah said DACA "is clearly unlawful." He said the federal judge "unilaterally" reimposed a program "that Congress had explicitly and repeatedly rejected."

U.S. District Judge Nicholas Garaufis in Brooklyn also concluded earlier this month that DACA renewals should continue while the case is heard.

One expert said Monday that, absent any unexpected policy changes or extraordinary court actions, it would take at least several months until the orders issued in Brooklyn and California are revisited by federal appeals courts.

"Certainly, until after a Court of Appeals rules, it seems very unlikely that they [the administration] will try to get another kind of extraordinary relief," said Andrew Pincus, a partner with the Mayer Brown law firm in Washington.

Dreamers had been worried about losing the chance to renew their DACA protections as the Monday deadline im-

posed by the Trump administration neared.

Eliana Fernández, a Patchogue resident among plaintiffs in the Brooklyn case, said she was "thrilled with the Supreme Court's decision" even if it's not yet a ruling on the policy's merits.

"Trump's decision" to end DACA "was an attack on me, my family and my community," said Fernández, an advocate with nonprofit Make the Road New York.

Barrett Psareas, who advocates for stricter enforcement of immigration laws, says that while he would like a final resolution on the DACA program, he's willing to wait until the matter makes its way back to the high court.

Immigrant advocates across the country say they will continue pushing for a legislative solution that would give them a permanent path to citizenship, several of their representatives said at a Monday media briefing.

With AP

Stability, risks seen in Xi move

BEIJING — The ruling Chinese Communist Party's move to enable President Xi Jinping to stay in power indefinitely is likely to ensure some degree of political stability while also reviving the specter of a return to one-man rule, analysts said Monday.

In a sign of the leadership's sensitivities, Chinese censors acted quickly to remove satirical commentary online about the development.

A day after the party announced a proposed constitutional amendment ending term limits, internet users found themselves unable to signal approval or disapproval by changing their profiles. Key search topics such as "serve another term" were censored.

Nevertheless, social media users shared images of Winnie the Pooh hugging a jar of honey along with the quote, "Find the thing you love and stick with it."

The Disney bear's image has been compared to Xi.

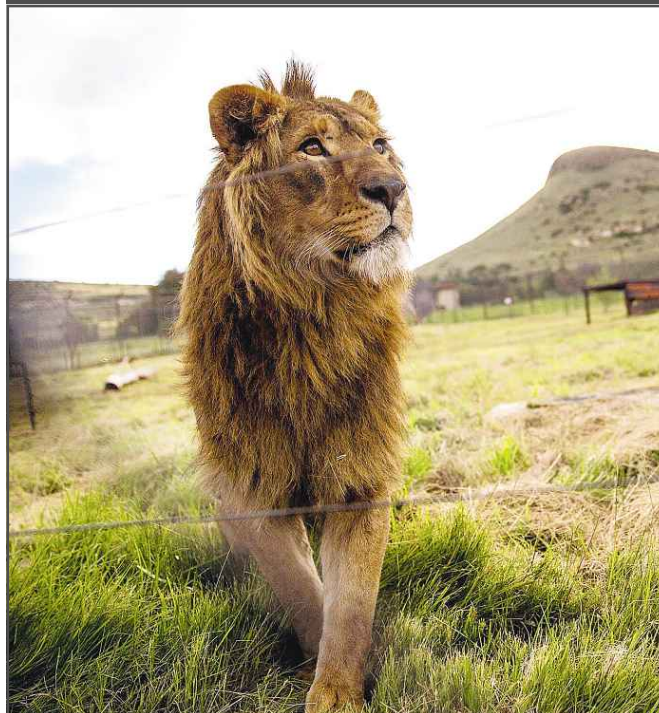
Other online commenters

wrote, "Attention, the vehicle is reversing" — an automated announcement used by Chinese delivery vehicles — suggesting that China is returning to the era of former dictator Mao Zedong or even imperial rule.

The National People's Congress is all but certain to pass the amendment when it meets for its annual session next month. Under the 1982 constitution, the president is limited to two five-year terms in office, but Xi — already China's most powerful leader since Mao — appears to want additional terms to see through his agenda of fighting corruption, eliminating poverty and transforming China into a modern leading nation by mid-century.

Or, some speculated, he may simply wish to retain near-absolute power for as long as possible. "It is most likely that it will turn into a post of lifelong tenure," said Zhang Ming, a retired political scientist who formerly taught at Beijing's Renmin University. — AP

Safe haven, at last



Two lions — 2-year-old Saeed, pictured above, and 4-year-old Simba — rescued from neglected zoos in war zones in Iraq and Syria arrived in South Africa on Monday to live at Lionsrock animal sanctuary near Bethlehem.

IVANKA CHAFES WHEN ASKED OF DAD'S BEHAVIOR

BY LAURA FIGUEROA HERNANDEZ
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WASHINGTON — Ivanka Trump expects to be treated seriously as a senior adviser to her father, President Donald Trump. But when faced with questions about her father's treatment of women, she'd prefer to be viewed as just a daughter.

She argued in an NBC interview Monday that a query to her about the women accusing the president of inappropriate behavior was "pretty inappropriate."

The comment highlighted her complicated roles as first daughter and advocate for women and families, serving in an administration led by a president accused of inappropriate behavior by more than a dozen women.

Asked if she believed the accusations against her father, Ivanka Trump said: "I think it's a pretty inappropriate question to ask a daughter if she believes the accusers of her father when he's affirmatively stated that there's no truth to it. I don't think that's a question you would ask many other daughters."

Trump has denied the allegations, and his daughter said she stood by him. "I believe my father, I know my father," she said. "I think I have that right as a daughter, to believe my father."

She was interviewed after leading the U.S. delegation at the closing ceremony for the Winter Olympics.

Katherine Jellison, who heads the history department at Ohio University, said, "You're either a senior adviser or a daughter. She's in this unique position that she's still trying to work out — especially since she was last in the news as a senior adviser going to the Olympics."

Ivanka Trump's trip to Asia included a private meeting with the South Korean president and a pledge that she would use her visit to advocate maximum pressure on North Korea to halt its nuclear program.

Trump has struggled to find the right tone to respond to the rising #MeToo movement. She recently got pushback for a tweet offering support for Oprah Winfrey's message of female empowerment at the Golden Globe awards.