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6 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
7 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

8
9 Lucrecia Rivas Valenzuela, et al.,

10 Plaintiffs,

11 v.

12 Doug Ducey, et al.,

13 Defendants.

No. CV-16-03072-PHX-DGC

ORDER

14
15 Plaintiffs argue that Arizona's policy of denying driver's licenses to certain
16 deferred action recipients violates the Supremacy and Equal Protection Clauses of the
17 United States Constitution. Doc. 1. This Court and the Ninth Circuit previously held that
18 this same policy violates the Constitution with respect to individuals who receive
19 deferred action through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program.
20 *Arizona Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer* ("*Dream Act III*"), 81 F. Supp. 3d 795, 799 (D. Ariz.
21 2015); *Arizona Dream Act Coal. v. Brewer* ("*Dream Act IV*"), 818 F.3d 901 (9th Cir.
22 2016). Plaintiffs now ask the Court to consider the constitutionality of Executive Order
23 2012-06 and Arizona Department of Transportation's ("ADOT") Motor Vehicle Division
24 ("MVD") Policy 16.1.4 with respect to individuals who receive deferred action outside
25 the DACA program and individuals with deferred enforced departure. Doc. 1.

26 Plaintiffs have filed motions for preliminary injunction (Doc. 30) and class
27 certification (Doc. 27), and Defendants have filed a motion to dismiss or, in the
28 alternative, for judgment on the pleadings (Doc. 37). All motions have been fully

1 briefed, and the Court heard oral argument on January 20, 2017. The Court denied the
2 motion for class certification before oral argument and directed the parties to conduct
3 discovery before filing renewed briefs on the matter. Doc. 54. For the reasons set forth
4 below, the Court will deny Defendants’ motion to dismiss and Plaintiffs’ motion for
5 preliminary injunction.

6 **I. Background.**

7 **A. Defendants’ Driver’s License Policy and 2013 Revision.**

8 A.R.S. § 28–3153(D) states that non-citizens may obtain Arizona driver’s licenses
9 by presenting proof that their presence in the United States is authorized under federal
10 law. On August 15, 2012, then Governor Jan Brewer issued Executive Order 2012-06,
11 which concluded that “issuance of Deferred Action or Deferred Action USCIS
12 employment authorization documents to unlawfully present aliens does not confer upon
13 them any lawful or authorized status and does not entitle them to any additional public
14 benefit.” Doc. 30-3 at 2. The Executive Order directed state agencies to “conduct a full
15 statutory, rule-making and policy analysis and . . . initiate operational, policy, rule and
16 statutory changes necessary to prevent Deferred Action recipients from obtaining
17 eligibility, beyond those available to any person regardless of lawful status, for any
18 taxpayer-funded public benefits and state identification, including a driver’s license[.]”
19 *Id.* ADOT Director John S. Halikowski amended his agency’s policies to conform with
20 this Executive Order, issuing a revised version of MVD Policy 16.1.4 on September 17,
21 2012. Doc. 30-4. This version of the policy specifically identified EADs issued to
22 DACA recipients as insufficient to demonstrate authorized presence for purposes of
23 obtaining an Arizona driver’s license. *Id.* at 30-4.

24 Director Halikowski continued to review the policy after the 2012 revision and
25 during the pendency of the lawsuit brought by the Arizona Dream Act Coalition. *Dream*
26 *Act III*, 81 F. Supp. 3d at 801. Noting concerns about inconsistencies in ADOT’s
27 treatment of EAD holders, Director Halikowski issued an amended version of the MVD
28 Policy in 2013 that explicitly identified EADs coded (a)(11), (c)(14), or (c)(33) as

1 insufficient to demonstrate authorized presence for purposes of obtaining a driver's
2 license. *Id.*; Doc. 27-3. The (c)(33) category applied to DACA recipients, and the
3 (a)(11) and (c)(14) categories applied to Plaintiffs in this case. Explaining this
4 amendment, "Director John S. Halikowski testified that Arizona views an EAD as proof
5 of presence authorized under federal law only if the EAD demonstrates: (1) the applicant
6 has formal immigration status; (2) the applicant is on a path to obtaining formal
7 immigration status; or (3) the relief sought or obtained is expressly provided pursuant to
8 the INA." *Dream Act IV*, 818 F.3d at 907.

9 **B. Previous Case.**

10 In response to ADOT's refusal to provide driver's licenses to DACA recipients,
11 the Arizona Dream Act Coalition brought suit alleging violations of the Equal Protection
12 and Supremacy Clauses of the United States Constitution. *See Arizona Dream Act Coal.*
13 *v. Brewer*, 945 F. Supp. 2d 1049, 1053 (D. Ariz. 2013). This Court held that ADOT's
14 policy violated the Equal Protection Clause and permanently enjoined ADOT from
15 denying driver's licenses to DACA recipients. *Dream Act III*, 81 F. Supp. 3d 795. The
16 Ninth Circuit affirmed the permanent injunction on the basis of preemption, but did not
17 overturn the Court's equal protection ruling. *Dream Act IV*, 818 F.3d at 920.

18 **D. Plaintiffs' Deferred Action Status.**

19 Plaintiffs each hold an EAD coded (c)(14) based on his or her pending application
20 for a U-visa or immigration relief under the Violence Against Women Act ("VAWA").
21 Docs. 30-7, 30-8, 30-9, 30-10, 30-11. Like DACA recipients, individuals with EADs
22 coded (c)(14) are recipients of deferred action. Plaintiffs seek to represent the following
23 class: "All noncitizens who present or will present an Employment Authorization
24 Document (EAD) in order to establish authorized presence and are being denied Arizona
25 driver's licenses resulting from Defendants' 2013 policy and related practices pursuant to
26 Executive Order 2012-06, MVD Policy 16.1.4, and MVD Policy 16.1.4's implementing
27 practices." Doc. 27 at 8. Plaintiffs made clear during oral argument that this proposed
28 class includes recipients of deferred enforced departure who hold EADs coded (a)(11).

1 **II. Motion to Dismiss and for Judgment on the Pleadings.**

2 Defendants contend that Plaintiffs lack standing and the Court therefore lacks
3 jurisdiction over their claims. “Unless the jurisdictional issue is inextricable from the
4 merits of a case, the court may determine jurisdiction on a motion to dismiss for lack of
5 jurisdiction under Rule 12(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” *Kingman Reef*
6 *Atoll Invs., L.L.C. v. United States*, 541 F.3d 1189, 1195 (9th Cir.2008). To resolve a
7 12(b)(1) motion, the Court does not presume Plaintiffs’ allegations to be true and may
8 “look to facts outside the pleadings to determine whether [it] ha[s] jurisdiction.” *Cassirer*
9 *v. Kingdom of Spain*, 616 F.3d 1019, 1043 (9th Cir. 2010). The Court may “resolv[e]
10 factual disputes where necessary.” *Augustine v. United States*, 704 F.2d 1074, 1077 (9th
11 Cir.1983). But “where the jurisdictional issue and substantive issues are so intertwined
12 that the question of jurisdiction is dependent on the resolution of factual issues going to
13 the merits, the jurisdictional determination should await a determination of the relevant
14 facts on either a motion going to the merits or at trial.” *Id.*

15 Defendants also argue that Plaintiffs’ claims against Governor Ducey are barred
16 by sovereign immunity. They assert that he is not responsible for the policy at issue in
17 this case and therefore cannot be sued under the doctrine of *Ex parte Young*, 209 U.S.
18 123 (1908).

19 **A. Standing.**

20 “[T]hose who seek to invoke the jurisdiction of the federal courts must satisfy the
21 threshold requirement imposed by Article III of the Constitution by alleging an actual
22 case or controversy.” *City of L.A. v. Lyons*, 461 U.S. 95, 101 (1985) (citations omitted).
23 “[T]he gist of the question of standing” is whether a plaintiff has “alleged such a personal
24 stake in the outcome of the controversy as to assure that concrete adverseness which
25 sharpens the presentation of issues upon which the court so largely depends for
26 illumination of difficult constitutional questions[.]” *Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 204
27 (1962). “[A] plaintiff must show (1) it has suffered an ‘injury in fact’ that is (a) concrete
28 and particularized and (b) actual or imminent, not conjectural or hypothetical; (2) the

1 injury is fairly traceable to the challenged action of the defendant; and (3) it is likely, as
2 opposed to merely speculative, that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision.”
3 *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Env'tl. Servs. (TOC), Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 180-81
4 (2000) (citing *Lujan v. Defenders of Wildlife*, 504 U.S. 555, 560-61 (1992)).
5 Additionally, to establish standing to seek injunctive relief, a party must show that he “is
6 likely to suffer future injury” absent the requested injunction. *Lyons*, 461 U.S. at 105.
7 Although Plaintiffs have the burden as to these requirements, they avoid dismissal of
8 their complaint if they provide facts which plausibly suggest that they have standing.
9 *Barnum Timber Co. v. U.S. E.P.A.*, 633 F.3d 894, 899 (9th Cir. 2011) (finding that a
10 plaintiff had satisfied his burden at the pleading stage when he alleged specific facts
11 which plausibly demonstrated Article III standing).

12 Defendants argue that the named Plaintiffs are “eligible for Arizona driver’s
13 licenses under existing policies and currently have the ability to obtain them.” Doc. 37 at
14 5. As a result, Defendants argue, any injury suffered by Plaintiffs is self-inflicted and
15 insufficient to establish standing. *Id.* at 7-8 (citing several cases, including *Clapper v.*
16 *Amnesty Int’l USA*, 133 S. Ct. 1138, 1143 (2013)). Without an identifiable injury, there
17 is no live case or controversy as required by Article III of the Constitution. *Id.*
18 Defendants further assert that “Plaintiffs’ allegation that they were previously denied
19 driver’s licenses fails to allege an actual case or controversy. Allegations of past wrongs
20 do not themselves establish a real and immediate existing controversy or threat of injury
21 to make a case or controversy.” *Id.* at 6.

22 In support of their contention that Plaintiffs are eligible for driver’s licenses under
23 Arizona’s policy, Defendants cite to a deposition of ADOT Director Halikowski taken in
24 the previous litigation. Doc. 37 at 4-5 (citing *Ariz. Dream Act. Coal. v. Brewer*, No.
25 2:12-cv-02546-DGC, Doc. 248-1 (“Deposition”)). Citing the Deposition, Defendants
26 argue that their policy allows an individual to show “authorized presence” for purposes of
27 obtaining a driver’s license by “providing documentation showing that: (1) the applicant
28 has formal immigration status; (2) the applicant is on the path to obtaining a formal

1 immigration status; or (3) the relief sought or obtained is expressly provided for pursuant
2 to the INA.” *Id.*¹ After reviewing the Deposition and other information submitted by
3 Defendants, the Court cannot conclude that Plaintiffs lack standing.

4 “The Supreme Court has articulated a broad conception of Article III standing to
5 bring equal protection challenges.” *Braunstein v. Arizona Dep’t of Transp.*, 683 F.3d
6 1177, 1184 (9th Cir. 2012). If the government has engaged in impermissible
7 discrimination, “those who are personally denied equal treatment have a cognizable
8 injury under Article III.” *Id.* at 1185. The Supreme Court has made clear that “[w]hen
9 the government erects a barrier that makes it more difficult for members of one group to
10 obtain a benefit than it is for members of another group[,] . . . [t]he ‘injury in fact’ . . . is
11 the denial of equal treatment resulting from the imposition of the barrier, not the ultimate
12 inability to obtain the benefit.” *Ne. Florida Chapter of Associated Gen. Contractors of*
13 *Am. v. City of Jacksonville, Fla.*, 508 U.S. 656, 666 (1993). *See also Regents of Univ. of*
14 *California v. Bakke*, 438 U.S. 265, 281 n.14 (1978) (noting with approval that the trial
15 court found the plaintiff’s injury to have occurred when the university failed to consider
16 him for all 100 places in the incoming class based on his race, rather than when the
17 plaintiff was ultimately rejected by the university).

18 Plaintiffs allege that Defendants have a policy of denying driver’s licenses to
19 deferred action recipients who present EADs coded (c)(14) or (a)(11). Doc. 47 at 9.
20 Plaintiffs further allege that Defendants have denied four of the named Plaintiffs licenses
21 because they presented EADs coded (c)(14). *Id.* at 9-11.² Defendants conceded during
22 oral argument that EADs coded (c)(14) or (a)(11) are not alone sufficient to show
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24 ¹ The Court notes that the exact scope and meaning of these three criteria may be
25 disputed. Defendants, however, allege that all five named Plaintiffs satisfy these criteria
26 and thus can establish authorized presence and eligibility for a license. The Court will
assume, for purposes of this motion, that the named Plaintiffs satisfy these criteria.

27 ² The fifth named Plaintiff argues that she will be unable to obtain a driver’s license or
28 renew her learner’s permit because her DACA status and EAD coded (c)(33) expired in
October 2016. Doc. 47-4 at 1. She has been granted an EAD coded (c)(14), which she
argues is insufficient to establish authorized presence for purposes of obtaining a license
under Defendants’ policy. *Id.*

1 authorized presence and obtain an Arizona driver’s license. It also is undisputed that
2 other non-citizens, including individuals with EADs coded (c)(9) or (c)(10), may obtain
3 licenses simply by presenting their EADs. Plaintiffs thus are treated differently from
4 other non-citizens who hold EADs. *Id.* at 12. This denial of equal treatment –
5 recognizing the authorized presence of some non-citizens based on their EADs, but not of
6 others – is an injury sufficient to establish Article III standing. *Ne. Florida Chapter of*
7 *Associated Gen. Contractors of Am.*, 508 U.S. at 666.³

8 Defendants argue that the Court should focus not on different treatment as an
9 injury, but on the ultimate outcome – whether Plaintiffs are able to obtain driver’s
10 licenses. The Court does not agree in light of the cases discussed above. But even if the
11 Court focuses on whether or not Plaintiffs may obtain driver’s licenses, the Court finds
12 that Plaintiffs have standing. Four named Plaintiffs allege that they have applied for and
13 been denied licenses because their EADs were deemed insufficient under Defendants’
14 policy. Doc. 47 at 10. Plaintiffs provide a copy of the current MVD Policy 16.1.4, which
15 states that EADs coded (c)(14) and (a)(11) are “not acceptable” to demonstrate
16 authorized presence for purposes of obtaining an Arizona driver’s license. Doc. 27-4 at
17 5. Plaintiffs also provide a copy of Defendants’ MVD Identification Requirements,
18 which list identification documents sufficient to establish authorized presence for
19 purposes of renewing or obtaining a driver’s license. Doc. 47-6. The Requirements
20 specifically exclude EADs coded (c)(14) and (a)(11) from the list of satisfactory proof of
21 authorized presence. *Id.*

22 Defendants argue that individuals with derivative status under VAWA and those
23 with pending U-visa applications, like Plaintiffs, are eligible for licenses under the
24 existing policies. Doc. 37 at 2. They argue that ADOT has a “practice of issuing driver’s
25 licenses to [such individuals].” *Id.* Defendants assert that “Plaintiffs need only produce

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27 ³ The Ninth Circuit has explained that “Article III standing to bring an equal protection
28 challenge is not without limits.” *Braunstein*, 683 F.3d at 1185. A plaintiff must assert “a
particularized injury, rather than a generalized grievance.” *Id.* Because four of the
Plaintiffs have alleged that they have actually been denied licenses when they presented
their EADs to ADOT, they have satisfied this requirement. *Id.*

1 documents establishing proof of their VAWA derivative status or pending U-visa
2 application” to obtain a license. *Id.* at 7. But Defendants do not identify any specific
3 documents that Plaintiffs may use for this purpose, nor point to any written policy of
4 accepting those documents as sufficient proof of authorized presence. Indeed, when
5 asked during oral argument where a person could go to learn of this policy and how to
6 comply with it, defense counsel was unaware of any place where it has been publicized.
7 Defendants provide no evidence of a public policy of recognizing the authorized presence
8 of individuals with EADs coded (c)(14) or (a)(11) and providing them with Arizona
9 driver’s licenses.⁴

10 While both sides agree that Plaintiff Gonzalez was able to obtain a driver’s license
11 in 2015, that is not sufficient to establish that Plaintiffs are eligible for driver’s licenses
12 under Defendants’ policy. Doc. 25, ¶ 10; Doc. 37 at 3. Plaintiff Gonzalez obtained his
13 license only after his attorney contacted Defendants after Gonzalez was denied a license
14 when he presented his EAD. Doc. 25, ¶ 10. In addition, when Gonzalez attempted to
15 renew his driver’s license on February 19, 2016, as he must do every year, he was again
16 denied on the basis of his EAD. *Id.*

17 In short, Plaintiffs have alleged that ADOT’s policy denies them licenses, and
18 Defendants have not shown a public policy to the contrary. As noted above, Plaintiffs
19 may avoid dismissal of their complaint by providing facts which plausibly suggest they
20 have standing. *Barnum Timber Co.*, 633 F.3d at 894. Plaintiffs have done so here even if
21 the Court looks to their inability to obtain licenses as the relevant injury.

22 Defendants state that they have invited Plaintiffs to make appointments with
23 ADOT and obtain driver’s licenses. This invitation could be viewed as an attempt to

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25 ⁴ The Deposition cited by Defendants does not show that Plaintiffs are able to obtain
26 driver’s licenses under the ADOT policy. The Deposition testimony simply asserts that
27 ADOT’s policy since 2013 has been to grant driver’s licenses to individuals who satisfy
28 any of the three criteria identified by Director Halikowski and discussed above.
Deposition at 68. That policy says nothing about derivative status under VAWA or
pending U-visa applications. And Plaintiffs dispute the existence of the policy,
contending that Defendants actually deny licenses to individuals with EADs coded
(c)(14) and (a)(11). Doc. 47 at 10.

1 amend their policy, but “voluntary cessation of challenged conduct does not ordinarily
2 render a case moot because a dismissal for mootness would permit a resumption of the
3 challenged conduct as soon as the case is dismissed.” *Bell v. City of Boise*, 709 F.3d 890,
4 898 (9th Cir. 2013) (quoting *Knox v. Serv. Employees Int’l Union, Local 1000*, 132 S. Ct.
5 2277, 2287 (2012)); *Friends of the Earth*, 528 U.S. at 189 (“It is well settled that a
6 defendant’s voluntary cessation of a challenged practice does not deprive a federal court
7 of its power to determine the legality of the practice.”) (quotation marks omitted). As the
8 Supreme Court has made clear, Defendants have the “heavy burden of persuading the
9 court that the challenged conduct cannot reasonably be expected to start up again.”
10 *Friends of the Earth, Inc.*, 528 U.S. at 189 (quotation marks and brackets omitted).
11 Defendants have provided no indication that they will formally amend their written MVD
12 Policy 16.1.4, nor have they identified any systematic change in their method of
13 determining authorized presence for those seeking Arizona driver’s licenses.
14 Defendants’ willingness to provide licenses to the named Plaintiffs does not change their
15 policy of denying licenses to individuals with EADs coded (c)(14) or (a)(11).

16 Additionally, the Ninth Circuit has made clear that a defendant’s offer to fully
17 satisfy the claims of named plaintiffs will not moot a class action or prevent the plaintiffs
18 from seeking class certification. *Chen v. Allstate Ins. Co.*, 819 F.3d 1136, 1142 (9th Cir.
19 2016). “To the extent that defendants may avoid a class action by picking off the named
20 plaintiffs, the class claims are inherently transitory and evade review, making an
21 exception to the mootness rule appropriate.” *Id.* at 1143 (quoting 5 James Wm. Moore,
22 *Moore’s Federal Practice* § 23.64[1][b] (3d ed. 2016)) (quotation marks omitted).

23 In summary, the Court concludes that Plaintiffs’ inability to obtain driver’s
24 licenses based on their EADs stems directly from Defendants’ policy of refusing to
25 recognize the authorized presence of individuals who present EADs coded (c)(14) or
26 (a)(11). This injury would be redressed by an injunction ordering Defendants to stop
27 enforcing their policy. Plaintiffs thus have alleged sufficient facts to show standing, and
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1 the Court will not dismiss their claims for lack of subject matter jurisdiction.⁵

2 **B. Sovereign Immunity.**

3 “The Eleventh Amendment erects a general bar against federal lawsuits brought
4 against a state.” *Porter v. Jones*, 319 F.3d 483, 491 (9th Cir. 2003). This bar generally
5 applies to suits against state officials. *Mason v. Arizona*, 260 F. Supp. 2d 807, 817 (D.
6 Ariz. 2003) (citing *Pennhurst State Sch. & Hosp. v. Halderman*, 465 U.S. 89, 101-2
7 (1984)). The Supreme Court held in *Ex parte Young* that state officials can, in some
8 circumstances, be sued to enjoin violations of federal law. This exception to sovereign
9 immunity applies when lawsuits are brought against state officers in their official
10 capacities for an injunction prohibiting future violations of federal law. Such “official-
11 capacity actions for prospective relief are not treated as actions against the State” for
12 purposes of the Eleventh Amendment. *Will v. Michigan Dept. of State Police*, 491 U.S.
13 58, 71 n.10 (1989) (internal quotation marks omitted). This is because “state officers
14 have no authority to violate the Constitution and laws of the United States,” and an
15 injunction against such violations therefore does not infringe any legitimate state power.
16 Erwin Chemerinsky, *Federal Jurisdiction*, § 7.5 (6th ed. 2012).

17 For the *Ex parte Young* exception to apply, the state officer “must have some
18 connection with the enforcement of the act” to be enjoined. 209 U.S. at 157. The
19 connection “must be fairly direct; a generalized duty to enforce state law or general
20 supervisory power over the persons responsible for enforcing the challenged provision
21 will not subject an official to suit.” *Coal. to Defend Affirmative Action v. Brown*, 674
22 F.3d 1128, 1134 (9th Cir. 2012) (quoting *L.A. Cty. Bar Ass’n v. Eu*, 979 F.2d 697, 704
23 (9th Cir. 1992)); *Sweat v. Hull*, 200 F. Supp. 2d 1162, 1167 (D. Ariz. 2001).

24 Defendants argue that the claims against Governor Ducey in this case are barred

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26 ⁵ To be sure, there is a factual dispute between the parties concerning the availability of
27 driver’s licenses, but the Court concludes that it should not convene an evidentiary
28 hearing to resolve that issue now. The content and scope of Defendants’ policy is so
inextricably intertwined with the merits of Plaintiffs’ claim that “the jurisdictional
determination should await a determination of the relevant facts on either a motion going
to the merits or at trial.” *Augustine*, 704 F.2d at 1077.

1 by sovereign immunity and must be dismissed. They emphasize that Governor Ducey
2 did not issue Executive Order 2012-06 and contend that his failure to rescind the order is
3 not sufficient to establish a connection between him and ADOT's policy. Doc. 37 at 14.
4 Plaintiffs, however, have brought suit against Governor Ducey in his official capacity,
5 rendering irrelevant whether he or one of his predecessors issued the Executive Order.

6 Defendants also argue that the "Executive Order did not order Director
7 Halikowski to change the driver's license policy or otherwise deny Plaintiffs any
8 benefits, and Director Halikowski had already initiated his review of ADOT's policies
9 prior to the Executive Order." Doc. 52 at 10. As a result, Defendants argue, rescinding
10 the Executive Order will have no impact on ADOT's policy. *Id.*

11 Plaintiffs conceded during oral argument that Executive Order 2012-06 does not
12 control ADOT's policy relating to individuals with EADs coded (a)(11) – recipients of
13 deferred enforced departure. They maintain, however, that the Executive Order controls
14 ADOT's policy concerning individuals with EADs coded (c)(14) – recipients of deferred
15 action. *See also* Doc. 47 at 17.

16 Arizona courts have made clear that a Governor's order is binding on lower
17 executive branch officials. *See Yes on Prop 200 v. Napolitano*, 160 P.3d 1216, 1225
18 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2007); *State v. Hooker*, 626 P.2d 1111, 1113 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1981). As a
19 result, the issue here is whether Executive Order 2012-06 requires ADOT and Director
20 Halikowski to maintain a policy that rejects EADs coded (c)(14) as sufficient proof of
21 federally authorized presence. If it does, the Executive Order and Governor Ducey
22 clearly have a direct connection to the challenged ADOT policy.

23 The Ninth Circuit has found that Executive Order 2012-06 was a "clear response
24 to DACA." *Dream Act IV*, 818 F.3d at 906. The text of the Executive Order, however,
25 refers more broadly to deferred action recipients. It concludes that "the Deferred Action
26 program does not and cannot confer lawful or authorized status or presence upon the
27 unlawful alien applicants[,]" and directs state agencies to "initiate operational, policy,
28 rule and statutory changes necessary" to give effect to this conclusion. Doc. 30-3 at 2.

1 Plaintiffs argue that both this Court and the Ninth Circuit have already found the 2013
2 change to MVD Policy 16.1.4 to be a direct result of Executive Order 2012-06. Doc. 47
3 at 17. While the Court agrees that Defendants began a policy of denying licenses to
4 DACA recipients in response to the Executive Order, it is less clear that the 2013
5 amendment to MVD Policy 16.1.4 was undertaken to comply with the Executive Order.
6 This amended policy explicitly identified EADs coded (c)(14) and (a)(11) as insufficient
7 to demonstrate authorized presence. It was implemented after the initiation of the *Dream*
8 *Act* litigation, and testimony from Director Halikowski indicates it was done to remedy
9 inconsistencies in ADOT's treatment of EAD holders. *Dream Act III*, 81 F. Supp. 3d at
10 801.

11 In short, a factual issue remains as to whether the 2013 amendment was
12 undertaken as a litigation strategy in the *Dream Act* case, as a general effort to remedy
13 inconsistencies in ADOT policy, or in compliance with Executive Order 2012-06. At this
14 stage, the record is insufficient for the Court to find that Governor Ducey and Executive
15 Order 2012-06 do not have a direct connection to the challenged ADOT policy. The
16 Court will deny the motion to dismiss on this issue, but Defendants are not foreclosed
17 from offering additional evidence on this issue in a motion for summary judgment or at
18 trial.

19 **III. Motion for Preliminary Injunction.**

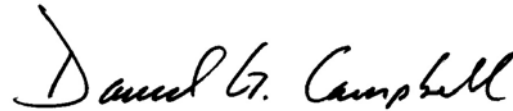
20 Defendants ask the Court to allow them an opportunity to conduct discovery
21 before ruling on Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction. Doc. 40 at 17.
22 Specifically, Defendants assert that they would like to depose Plaintiffs and conduct
23 written discovery to evaluate Plaintiffs' alleged harm. *Id.* Plaintiffs filed their amended
24 complaint on October 5, 2016 and their motion for preliminary injunction nine days later,
25 leaving Defendants no opportunity for discovery relevant to the motion. The Court finds
26 the current record insufficient to make a fair determination of whether a preliminary
27 injunction is warranted. The Court has already granted the parties a period of discovery
28 before it will consider class certification. Because Plaintiffs seek a preliminary

1 injunction granting class-wide relief, the Court will deny Plaintiffs' motion for a
2 preliminary injunction and direct the parties to conduct discovery before filing renewed
3 motions for class certification and a preliminary injunction.

4 **IT IS ORDERED:**

- 5 1. Plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction (Doc. 30) is **denied**.
- 6 2. Defendants' motion to dismiss or for judgment on the pleadings (Doc. 37)
7 is **denied**.
- 8 3. The Court will enter a separate case management order.

9 Dated this 26th day of January, 2017.

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14 David G. Campbell
15 United States District Judge
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