

THE
Episcopal
CHURCH

August 31, 2017

Dear Senator,

The Episcopal Church has long walked alongside immigrants and refugees, and I write to you today to urge you to support the bipartisan Dream Act, which will protect the young people known as Dreamers. As Christians, we are called to respect the human dignity of every human being, and indeed our church is made up of faithful individuals of diverse backgrounds, including Dreamers.

Since the Dream Act was first introduced in 2001, young people brought to the U.S. as children have made numerous contributions to our country as they await a legislative solution to their fate. It is now time to offer these young people a way forward.

The Dream Act offers an opportunity for legislators to enhance our great nation by harnessing the innovation and passion of nearly one million promising young people. Since 2011, nearly 800,000 Dreamers have received work permits, and they have benefitted from the protections in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. The beneficiaries of this program have demonstrated that when given the opportunity, Dreamers succeed in school and the work place, open businesses, and become valued members of our churches and communities.

These children of God deserve to live free from fear of deportation to a country they may not even remember. I urge you to support the bipartisan Dream Act that would offer Dreamers a pathway to citizenship after paying a fee and passing criminal and national-security background checks. Offering Dreamers an opportunity to gain citizenship would be a small, but critical and sensible step forward in crafting solutions to our nation's immigration system.

Thank you for your consideration.

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