

**Share the Journey**  
**#sharejourney**

**10,000 Letters for Dreamers!**

Overview – 10,000 Letters to Congress!

In September 2017, Pope Francis launched a two-year campaign of solidarity with migrants, called “Share the Journey.” In response the Diocese of Youngstown is joining with all the Roman Catholic dioceses of Ohio as well as other Catholic, faith-based and community partners to urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act or similar legislation protecting young immigrants. Approximately 800,000 youth have received protection through the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program since its inception by Executive Order in 2012. While DACA provided no legal status, it did provide recipients with a temporary reprieve from deportation and employment authorization for legal work opportunities in the United States. In September 2017, the Trump Administration announced that it would terminate DACA in March 2018. After then, DACA youth will be at risk of deportation from the U.S. – the only country many have ever really known. We believe that it is Congress’ job to legislate before this deadline a permanent fix for DACA youth, who were brought to the United States through no choice of their own and who continue to have no viable path to regularize their status.

The U.S. Catholic Bishops have long supported DACA youth. As Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, Chair of the USCCB Migration Committee noted: “DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes.” In the Diocese, we too appreciate the gift that these young immigrants are to our churches, schools, workplaces and communities. We are calling on the Catholic faithful and all people of good will to urge Congress to help these young immigrants through passage of the DREAM Act (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) or similar legislation before March 2018.

Across Ohio we will be generating 10,000 letters to our U.S. Senators and Representatives from Ohio to this end. Why this number? Because, since DACA was started in 2012, there have been nearly the same number of approved applications (representing about 4,400 DACA recipients and 5,100 renewals). We will be collecting letters between now and December 19 (International Migrants Day). Join us!

You can find the letter to fill out on the next page. Please return to the parish and we can mail the letters as a group from the diocese. We will be collecting the letters in the front of church or you can return the letter in the collection basket.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_

As a constituent, I write to express my strong support for the “Dream Act of 2017” (S.1615/H.R. 3440) or similar legislation that provides a path to residency for many immigrant youth. The young people protected by such bills are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our churches and communities. I believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children. Among these protected by these bills are Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, a program that has benefited over 780,000 young people across the country. Given that these immigrants have no other viable way to regularize their status, DACA has ensured that recipients are able to live their lives free from the anxiety that they could be deported at any time to a country they do not know and separated from their families.

The Trump Administration is now ending DACA in March 2018, but immigrant youth deserve continued protection and a path to citizenship. I believe that it is Congress’ responsibility to provide a legislative path to residency for these youth before this deadline.

I urge you to:

- Support and co-sponsor the Dream Act of 2018 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) or similar legislation, and
- Continue to work towards larger legislative reform of our immigration laws.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_