



LCWR Statement on Dream Act 2017

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious is committed to the gospel mandate to welcome the stranger. Catholic sisters have a long history of accompanying the immigrant community and they continue to minister to these aspiring citizens in schools, hospitals, and service agencies across the country. They know first-hand the fear and uncertainty that plagues these young people and their communities. They will continue to stand with immigrant youth and their families and will be staunch advocates for passage of The Dream Act of 2017 as clean legislation without enforcement provisions including funding for detention, deportation, or border militarization and any proposal that would limit opportunities for family reunification.

We urge members of Congress of both parties to reaffirm the values upon which this nation was founded by supporting this common sense path to justice for DREAMers and stability for families, communities, and local economies. The Dream Act 2017 is the only truly bipartisan, bicameral piece of legislation that will solve the problem the President created when he rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

We call on members of both parties to embrace DREAMers and pass the Dream Act 2017. Two-thirds (67%) of Americans favor allowing immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college. That includes 79 percent of Democrats; 70 per cent of independents; and a majority of Republicans (51 percent).¹ Overwhelmingly, members of Congress believe it is wrong to deport immigrant youth. We urge Congress to immediately take up and pass a clean Dream Act 2017.

LCWR and its members will continue to press for relief for families, an end to needless deportations, and the closure of family detention centers. We will continue to advocate for bipartisan legislation that addresses the problems in our broken immigration system. We will continue to stand in solidarity with families, regardless of immigration status, who labor daily to provide safety and security for their children. We will continue to accompany DREAMers and their families and to work with all who struggle for justice for immigrants.

LCWR is an association of leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. The conference has nearly 1300 members, who represent more than 38,800 women religious in the United States. Founded in 1956, LCWR assists its members to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today's world.

¹ "Public Support for Basic Policies of DACA Program Edges Up" by Daniel Cox, Ph.D. and Molly Fisch-Friedman, Public Religion Research Institute (September 22, 2017).