

**As President Obama prepares to announce TONIGHT his executive order on immigration, urge him to inclusively expand deferred action for our undocumented community members.**

**Call the White House TODAY and every day until the President acts!**

**And tell Congress that you support the President taking action!**

Immigrant rights groups and faith communities across the country have been urging the administration to take bold, concrete actions to stop the pain that families and communities face due to deportations. Such action has been promised and delayed, but it seems likely that President Obama will act soon. Every day the administration delays its executive order, more than 1,000 individuals are deported from their families and communities. The President's action could look similar to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in which undocumented individuals who came to the U.S. as children can apply to temporarily be able to travel and work legally. Such action may condition relief on having a child who is a U.S. Citizen or Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR), living in the United States for five or ten years, and/or other criteria.<sup>1</sup> This could leave out a significant number of our community members who have lived here for less time, do not have U.S. Citizen or LPR family members, and individuals who have committed immigration infractions or crimes in the past but have accepted responsibility for their actions and turned their lives around. As people of faith, we do not define a person by how long he or she has been in the United States. We do not value family unity based on one family member's immigration status. We believe in the power of redemption, repentance, forgiveness and rehabilitation, as all of us have made mistakes. Now is the time for the President to hear from us that administrative relief must be inclusive.

Some members of Congress have threatened to stop administrative action through legislation, legal action or blocking funding for implementation. It is important for Congress to hear from people of faith that we support the President expanding deferred action. President Obama has signed fewer executive orders than any president in 130 years. He has the authority to provide our undocumented community members opportunities to stay in the United States without fear of deportation. *Deferred action* is one of the many long-standing forms of prosecutorial discretion available to the Executive Branch.<sup>2</sup> Indeed, every U.S. President has used their authority to offer temporary immigration relief to groups in need since at least 1956.<sup>3</sup> Ronald Reagan used categorical grants of deferred action for large groups of undocumented immigrants in 1987, as did George H.W. Bush in 1990.<sup>4</sup> George W. Bush exercised prosecutorial discretion in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for over 40 percent of the then-unauthorized population.<sup>5</sup>

**Tell the White House that you don't want to see your community members left out of administrative action! And tell Congress that you support the President using his authority to expand deferred action!**

**Call the White House at 1-866-961-4293.**

You can also call the White House Comment Line directly at [1-888-907-2053](tel:1-888-907-2053).

"I'm from (City, State, Congregation/Community) and as a person of faith, I urge President Obama to inclusively expand deferred action. The President must act boldly and act now. Administrative Action should not be limited to individuals who have been in the United States for a long time, or those who have family members here. We seek broad, accessible relief for all of our community members."

**Then Call 1-866-940-2439 to be connected with Your Representative.**

You can also call the Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 or find your Representative's direct line at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

"I'm from (City, State, Congregation/Community) and as a person of faith, I support President Obama expanding deferred action. The President has the authority to act boldly and act now. I ask Congress to support the President's decision to expand deferred action and to promote its implementation."

***Keep up the pressure on social media!***

Ex: [@WhiteHouse](https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse) As a person of faith I want you to use your authority to grant inclusive relief to our undocumented community members. #Not1More family separated

Ex: [@Raul\\_Labrador](https://twitter.com/Raul_Labrador) As a person of faith from Idaho I support the @WhiteHouse decision to expand deferred action for our #immigrant brothers and sisters (Find your Representative's [Twitter](https://twitter.com/housegov) handle at [house.gov](http://house.gov))

"Like" the Refugee and Immigration Ministries on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/interfaithimm), go to our [website](http://www.interfaithimm.org) and follow @StanleyRea on Twitter to receive regular updates. Also follow [@InterfaithImm](https://twitter.com/interfaithimm) on Twitter and "like" the [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](https://www.facebook.com/interfaithimm) on Facebook to receive additional alerts.

<sup>1</sup> "Source: Obama to announce 10-point immigration plan via exec action as early as next week," Fox News, November 2014. <[www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/11/13/source-obama-to-announce-10-point-immigration-plan-via-exec-action-as-early-as/](http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2014/11/13/source-obama-to-announce-10-point-immigration-plan-via-exec-action-as-early-as/)>

<sup>2</sup> Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 103(a), 8 U.S.C. § 103(a)

<sup>3</sup> Executive Grants of Temporary Immigration Relief, 1956-Present," American Immigration Council, October 2014. <[www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/executive\\_grants\\_of\\_temporary\\_immigration\\_relief\\_1956-present\\_final\\_1.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/executive_grants_of_temporary_immigration_relief_1956-present_final_1.pdf)>

<sup>4</sup> Letter, "re: Executive authority to grant administrative relief for DREAM Act beneficiaries," May 2012. <[www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/conference/ILR13\\_CALawProfessorsLetter.pdf](http://www.law.yale.edu/documents/pdf/conference/ILR13_CALawProfessorsLetter.pdf)>

<sup>5</sup> "Executive Grants of Temporary Immigration Relief, 1956-Present," American Immigration Council, October 2014. <[www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/executive\\_grants\\_of\\_temporary\\_immigration\\_relief\\_1956-present\\_final\\_1.pdf](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/docs/executive_grants_of_temporary_immigration_relief_1956-present_final_1.pdf)>