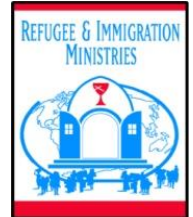




Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries
5 Thomas Circle NW, Washington, DC 20005
A Ministry of Disciples Home Missions



November 1, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

Our Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, along with many of our congregations and community leaders, are grateful to participate actively in this week's "Praying with Dreamers" support for the many dreamers and their families who are in our congregations and who contribute greatly to the strength of our faith communities and our nation. Current DACA recipients, and others who entered the U.S. as immigrant children, are our long term neighbors, work colleagues, classmates, and friends. Our relationships with dreamers assist us in fulfilling God's call to welcome the sojourner in our midst, and to "treat them as the native born among you" (Leviticus 19:34.)

Immigrant young adult dreamers are likewise key leaders in our churches who have demonstrated courage in the face of struggles, and great faithfulness to God, their families, and communities. Our General Minister and President, Rev. Terri Hord Owens, well understands the great value that DACA recipients offer to our country. As both a long term business manager, and later as a pastor and as Dean of Students at the University of Chicago Divinity School, she observed the contributions of dreamer gifts to the work environments, campus, and churches. Based on such awareness, Rev. Hord Owens recently said,

"I continue to mourn for the wound that was opened in the hearts of the more than three quarters of a million youth and their families when DACA was ended in September. Our faith compels us to support the well-being and healing of those who offer their gifts generously to our nation. We therefore urge immediate passage of The Dream Act of 2017 by Congress, which would offer stability to the lives of immigrant leaders. We are committed to continuing work for compassionate immigration reforms that can support family unity, offer a stable future to hardworking immigrants, and enable them to fully utilize their God-granted gifts without fears of deportation."

Our Refugee and Immigration Ministries joins with her in requesting your consideration for how the bi-partisan Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) could enable dreamers and their families to continue to contribute greatly to the strength of our great country.

Most Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director

Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US & Canada

Refugee and Immigration Ministries equips Disciples to respond to Jesus' call to welcome the stranger through refugee resettlement, ministering with immigrants, and advocacy. We provide resources for your congregation, legal consultations, and connections to hands-on mission work. Since 1949, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has resettled more than 40,000 refugees, assisted countless people facing immigration problems, and advocated for humane borders and rights of immigrants. For further information, see www.discipleshomemissions.org, or contact: Rev. Dr. Sharon Stanley-Rea, Director, sstanley@dhm.disciples.org, 202-957-7826, on twitter @StanleyRea, & Facebook: Refugee and Immigration Ministries Disciples Home Missions, or Tana Liu-Beers, Legal Counsel, tana@dhm.disciples.org, 317-289-1407.