



DREAMERS STORIES AND QUOTES

- Sheridan Aguirre**, now 23, is from Mexico, now lives in Texas, and was only one year old when his mother brought him to the U.S. to reunite with her husband who was a farmworker. Aguirre believed the government that his personal information would not be used against him when he applied for DACA. "I want a clean Dream Act so that I can see my five younger siblings grow up, and so I can continue my dreams of being an actor and filmmaker without constantly worrying about roadblocks along the way."
- Oscar Hernandez** is from Mexico and grew up in Houston, Texas. "Those who oppose the Dream Act are trying to dehumanize us, terrorize our community and families. We are calling for a clean Dream Act because we must not require one group of immigrants to suffer so that another can get equal rights and citizenship. In Houston, we suffered alongside everyone else and we volunteered alongside everyone else. This is our home and we will defend it."
- Rosa Maria Hernandez** is just 10-years old, she is undocumented and has cerebral palsy. She is a little Dreamer and should have a pathway to citizenship. Instead, the agents with the Border Patrol waited outside of her hospital room while she had surgery. They disgracefully detained and held her for several weeks in a detention center. This is why we call for a *clean* Dream Act. We must not give agents like these more millions and more power.
- Deya Aldana** is from Mexico and grew in New Jersey, "A Clean Dream Act is the right thing to do for our community and for our families. It will ensure our families our families aren't broken up."
- Ambar Pinto** is from Bolivia and grew up in Northern Virginia, "I fight against detentions and deportations every day. I've seen first hand the devastating effects of mass deportations of undocumented immigrants. We are in the fight for our lives."
- Nestor Ruiz** is from Mexico and grew up in Florida. "As each day goes by more and more immigrant youth like myself are losing protection, that is why I need a clean Dream Act Now, clean because I will not lose another parent to deportation."
- Luis Angel Aguilar**, 29, is a DACA recipient, and works for a Virginia immigrant rights organization. Born in Mexico, his family crossed the border with his Mom and siblings when he was 10 or 11 years old in Arizona. He says that, without DACA, he doesn't qualify for family-sponsored immigration or the program for high-skilled foreign workers. "I think that's one misconception that often gets told—that I can just apply for citizenship. There's no line, per se, to be able to get behind."
- Ernestor De La Rosa**, now 30, is Assistant to the City Manager, and Assistance Finance Director at the City of Dodge City, Kansas. He was 13 when he came to America with his parents, when relatives already in Dodge City petitioned for permanent residency for them. They had 10-year visitor visas — something they thought gave them plenty of time to obtain legal status. It didn't. Ernestor says, "In high school I didn't have papers and couldn't get a job. But as long as I had a chance for education, I thought I should get all the skills I possibly could." He spent 7 years working his way through college for a master's degree in Public Administration, obtaining DACA during his first year in the program. DACA since has allowed him to work legally to help lead his city.
- Greisa Martinez** immigrated with her family at a young age from Mexico and grew up in Dallas, Texas. "Congress and the Trump Administration are gambling with our lives. We are not bargaining chips, we are human beings with families and with dreams for a better life." Greisa founded the first undocumented youth-led group in her university's 100 year history, and has organized immigrant youth and workers for the passage of pro-immigrant policies at the local and national level for the past 9 years.
- Gosia Labno**, 25, was born in Poland, but came to Chicago at 10 years old. "My parents came for better economic opportunities. Now, I am a DACA recipient. I would urge the president to proactively support the Dreamers. Otherwise, you have to force me out of this country. This is the only home I have."
- Tony Choi**, 28, was born in South Korea and now lives in New York City. "I want to get up on the biggest microphone ever and say immigration is an issue that affects more than just Latinos," he says. His family came to the U.S. following the Asian economic crisis when he was a young child. "Getting DACA felt that everything my family had worked for, all the challenges my mom, my sister and I went through, things were finally working."

Contact Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries, Rev. Sharon Stanley-Rea, 202-957-7826, ststanley@dhm.disciples.org