



**Statement from
The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain
Bishop of Sioux Falls
September 5, 2017**

***In response to the Executive Order to eliminate the
Deferred Action for Child Arrivals (DACA) program***

Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following statement concerning the termination of the so-called “Dreamers” immigration program. It seeks to protect those who were brought into the United States as children and therefore with limited knowledge of immigration laws. They should not be punished for actions they did not knowingly commit.

Most of these young people have known no other country than the United States in which they have been raised and educated. Many are becoming contributing members of our country and enrich us all. There are hundreds of young people in South Dakota who now live in fear and uncertainty.

I fully endorse the statement of Cardinal DiNardo and urge the Congress to quickly enact legislation which provides a just resolution to this matter. Congress should also enact comprehensive immigration reform that protects our borders while building on the long legacy of legal immigration that has served our country well, including in our diocese and state.



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

USCCB PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN DENOUNCE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION TO END DACA AND STRONGLY URGE CONGRESS TO FIND LEGISLATIVE SOLUTION

September 5, 2017

WASHINGTON— The President and Vice President along with Chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) have issued a statement denouncing the Administration's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program after six months.

The following statement from USCCB President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, along with USCCB Vice President, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, chairman, Committee on Migration, and Bishop Joseph J. Tyson of Yakima, chairman of the Subcommittee on Pastoral Care of Migrants, Refugees, and Travelers says the "cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible."

Over 780,000 youth received protection from the DACA program since its inception by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in 2012. DACA provided no legal status or government benefits but did provide recipients with temporary employment authorization to work in the United States and reprieve from deportation.

Full statement follows:

"The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families. These youth entered the U.S. as minors and often know America as their only home. The Catholic Church has long watched with pride and admiration as DACA youth live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society: continuing to work and provide for their families, continuing to serve in the military, and continuing to receive an education. Now, after months of anxiety and fear about their futures, these brave young people face deportation. This decision is unacceptable and does not reflect who we are as Americans.

The Church has recognized and proclaimed the need to welcome young people: 'Whoever welcomes one of these children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me' (Mark 9:37). Today, our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country. Today's actions represent a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and good will, and a short-sighted vision for the future. DACA

youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our Church, and are, by every social and human measure, American youth.

We strongly urge Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution. We pledge our support to work on finding an expeditious means of protection for DACA youth.

As people of faith, we say to DACA youth – regardless of your immigration status, you are children of God and welcome in the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church supports you and will advocate for you."

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