



we are one family under God

PRAY AND TAKE ACTION **FOR THE DREAM ACT**

Dream Act 2017 would not only protect thousands of young people from deportation, it would allow them to further their education, obtain work, and continue contributing to this great country.

Pope Francis has called on us to pray and provide support for our brothers and sisters who are migrants and refugees through the historic campaign, Share the Journey. Follow his call by speaking out on behalf of young people in our communities who are facing an uncertain future because of the Administration's recent decision to end the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Currently, there are approximately 800,000 young people who are face the loss of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) protections, which include work authorization and protection from deportation. DACA youth and the larger DREAMer community need legislative protection from Congress to ensure that they are not deported from the only home they have ever known. Your members of Congress need to hear from you that you care about DREAMers. Send a message to your members of Congress now urging passage of the clean DREAM Act quickly so as not to uproot the lives of so many young people who've made enormous contributions to our communities and our economy.



Do not tire of courageously living the Gospel, which calls you to recognize and welcome the Lord Jesus among the smallest and most vulnerable.

- Pope Francis, Papal Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, 2017

CALL CONGRESS TODAY!

Representatives: 1-888-496-3502

Senators: 1-888-410-0619

*Please call your 1 Representative and then your 2 Senators

Sample Script to Representative/Senators: *"I'm your constituent from [City, State]. I support the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and strongly oppose President's Trump's announcement to end it. DACA has provided nearly 800,000 immigrant youth the opportunity to work, raise a family, and pursue their dreams. I urge you to support a clean passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S.1615/H.R.3440) and do everything in your power to protect immigrant youth."*

To send an electronic email to your elected officials, please go to:

<https://justiceforimmigrants.org/action-alerts/migration-campaign-action-alert-daca/>

Counteracting common myths about immigration.

1. ***Immigrants do not take away jobs from Americans***

Immigrants work in niche occupations; including many areas U.S. workers don't choose to work in. Studies have shown no correlation between high unemployment and immigrants. Most undocumented immigrants are here to escape poverty, oppression, domestic violence and other unlivable circumstances. Many undocumented immigrants would be qualify as refugees if they had been given the proper legal assistance in time.

2. ***Immigrants do not increase crime***

New immigrants are *less* likely to commit crimes than native-born Americans. While immigration has increased since 1994, including doubling undocumented populations, violent crime rates fell by 34.2%.

3. ***Immigrants pay taxes***

All immigrants pay taxes (income, property, sales, etc.). Immigrants pay \$90-\$140 *billion* a year in federal, state, and local income taxes. Undocumented immigrants also pay income taxes, evidenced by the Social Security Administration's "suspense file" (taxes that cannot be matched to workers' names and social security numbers). In 2002, this suspense file grew by \$56 billion in reported earnings, with \$7 billion in Social Security taxes and \$1.5 billion in Medicare taxes largely paid by immigrants who will *never* enjoy these programs. Immigrants contribute \$611 billion to our Social Security system; a moratorium on legal immigration would raise the deficit 31% over 50 yrs.

4. ***Immigrants contribute economically to society***

The immigrant community is not a drain on the U.S. economy but, in fact, is a net benefit. Research reported by the CATO Institute and the President's Council of Economic Advisors reveals that the average immigrant pays a net \$80,000 more in taxes than they collect in government services. For immigrants with college degrees the net fiscal return is \$198,000. Furthermore, The American Farm Bureau asserts that without guest workers the U.S. economy would lose as much as \$9 billion a year in agricultural production and 20 percent of current production would go overseas. Immigrants have a high rate of entrepreneurship, opening businesses and creating jobs.

5. ***Immigrants do want to learn English***

Immigrants learn English today at the same rate as Italian, German, and E. Europeans who emigrated in the 19th & early 20th centuries. There are not enough English classes to accommodate all the immigrants who want to learn.

6. ***It's very difficult to immigrate legally from certain countries***

There are no legal possibilities for many immigrants. Visa caps, complex laws including 1996 changes in the law means if an immigrant leaves and tries to apply to re-enter, they could be separated from their family for 10 years or more. There are virtually no permanent employment visas for unskilled immigrants; the wait is 8 years and no employer will hold a job open that long. Immigrants can't wait in line, because there is no line.

The material above it taken from *Dream Sabbath Toolkit: A Resource by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition*: <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Dream-Sabbath-2017-4-FINAL-09.108.17.pdf>