

FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

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MICHAEL B. SHEEDY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



December 12, 2017

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senator
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Re: Support for DREAMers

Dear Senator Rubio:

As you may recall, the Catholic Bishops have long supported comprehensive federal immigration reform. While comprehensive reform is not currently being debated in Congress, right now there is an important opportunity for Congress to lead on a solution for those affected by the President's recent rescission of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

These nearly 800,000 young people were brought to the United States as children, through no fault of their own, but have come to exemplify the extraordinary contributions that immigrants provide to our nation. They are contributors to our economy, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our communities. These youths should not be forced to live in constant fear that they will be deported from the only country they have come to know as their home and separated from their families.

We are called to protect the dignity of every person, particularly that of the poor and most vulnerable. We believe that deportation offends human dignity as it contradicts the good of the person made in His image.

I urge you to support a legislative solution for DACA recipients which allows for a path to citizenship and gives full right to DACA recipients that become citizens of our country. I hope that you will encourage action be taken now. We recognize that this solution will most likely be tied to border security provisions. The Catholic Bishops recognize the right of sovereign nations to protect their borders and enforce their laws, provided that such measures are reasonable and not onerous. Particularly we ask you encourage support for passage of the Dream Act (H.R. 3440/S. 1615) or other legislative vehicle such as the Recognizing America's Children (RAC) Act be included in the final Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill, cancelling the removal of and granting lawful permanent resident status to DACA recipients. We note again the importance of timing- as every day that passes, DACA recipients lose their status- for us this is a very human consequence that we urge lawmakers to fix.

It is both our moral duty and in our nation's best interest to protect DACA recipients. Thank you for your time, consideration and leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to read "Thomas G. Wenski". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "T" and "W".

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archbishop of Miami