ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Friday, June 24, 2016—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— We the Bishops of New Mexico call on all New Mexicans to pray for the millions of persons whose lives will be affected by the Supreme Court’s decision that Deferred Action for Parent of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will remain blocked nationwide from going into effect.

This is another setback in bringing stability and safety to millions of immigrants who were brought to this country as children, out of no will of their own. We now call on the US Congress to take on the work of passing a just comprehensive reform of immigration law. It is the lack of action that has put resident families in crises. We cannot wait any longer.

All Americans are called to be people of good will. It is precisely this good will that each of us should exercise in kind and fair treatment of everyone living in our communities. We pray for all to have clear thinking and not be fooled into rhetoric that creates false notions of fear toward immigrants. Our country is a tree of many roots, grown out of migration from all corners of the earth. As Independence Day approaches let us remember all the great contributions that our own immigrant families have made to this land and country. Every resident of our Country is called to welcome the stranger; the integrity of our country depends on it. In the name of our Lord Jesus, we invoke God’s blessings of peace, patience, and action so to be empowered with hospitality and humility to welcome the immigrant as a neighbor and no longer see them as a stranger.

We stand in solidarity with all the bishops of the United States and behind the statement made on June 23, 2016 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. View statement at www.usccb.org/news/2016/16-078.cfm--END

Most Rev. John C. Wester 
Archbishop of Santa Fe

Most Rev. James Wall 
Bishop of Gallup

Most Rev. Oscar Cantú 
Bishop of Las Cruces