



**UUSJ Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice**

November 3, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

The Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice (UUSJ) urges Congress **to support an immediate passage of the bipartisan, bicameral Dream Act of 2017, S. 1615/H.R. 3440, without attaching it to increased enforcement.**

We ask members of Congress to stand in solidarity with immigrant youth to provide a path to citizenship for hundreds of thousands of young individuals to achieve the American Dream. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has provided protections from deportations and the ability to work and attend school for nearly 800,000 young immigrants. The United States is home to these brave people.

We are deeply troubled by the President's decision to end the DACA program. **Repeal of DACA goes against our nation's principles and the views and wishes of the majority of the country.**

Unitarian Universalists believe that no human being is illegal. For years, we have fought for compassionate immigration reform and an end to mass detention and deportation. We will continue to support DREAMers and their families and help them defend themselves against punitive measures and mass criminalization. As people of faith and conscience, grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles affirming the inherent worth and dignity of all people, we will resist these actions faithfully and with love until all communities are free.

In 2013 our Unitarian Universalist General Assembly passed a Statement of Conscience on "Immigration as a Moral Issue" which states: "Our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Sources compel us to affirm that all immigrants, regardless of legal status, should be treated justly and humanely." **We strongly support a just and equitable reform of our nation's immigration laws.**

Taking away DREAMers' legal status and leaving them vulnerable to deportation is immoral and wrong. DREAMers are not bargaining chips to be used for political gain, and the further criminalization and persecution of the broader immigrant community is disgraceful. These individuals are not just numbers, they are students, doctors, and veterans, they are hard-working members and leaders of communities, integral in every state. They are parents, friends, neighbors and loved ones.

We strongly believe that removing the threat of deportation and creating an opportunity for U.S. citizenship will make an incredible difference in the life and spirit of individuals and families and make our nation stronger when everyone has a chance to achieve the American dream. We stand in solidarity with all DREAMers now facing the repeal of DACA and urge Congress to take immediate action to pass a clean Dream Act of 2017.

Thank you if you are a co-sponsor of the Dream Act of 2017. If not, we urge you to reach out to your colleagues across the aisle and become a co-sponsor. We urge members of both parties to demonstrate moral leadership and reaffirm the values upon which this country was founded and do the right thing. The time is now.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Denniston  
UUSJ Board Chair