

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers
for by doing so, some have entertained angels unawares.”*

(HEBREWS 13:1)

President Donald Trump and Members of Congress,

As bishops of the Episcopal Church we implore you not to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA. To do so would endanger the lives of thousands of young people and their families and run contrary to the faith and moral traditions of our country.

It is unfair to threaten the well-being of young people who arrived in our country as children through no choice of their own. Ending DACA without a similar replacement program will force these young people to face the future in this country with little access to education and employment, and ultimately, could very well lead to sending them to countries where they did not grow up, have few support structures, may not even speak the language and may be vulnerable to violence and persecution.

Any of these scenarios, we believe, is cruel.

The alternative for us as a country is to move forward, to celebrate and benefit from the presence of these ‘Dreamers’ and to provide a pathway to citizenship that enables them to remain and strengthen our country.

The Episcopal Church has long advocated for bipartisan comprehensive immigration reforms that prioritize family unity and humanitarian concerns. It is time for Congress to develop long-term solutions for immigrant families.

In front of most of the Episcopal Churches across the country is a sign that says, ‘The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.’ We have this sign because we are followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth, and our Christian tradition shares with many other faith bodies the absolute importance of welcoming the foreigner in our midst. Throughout the centuries this tradition has brought us great wisdom and strength as the foreigner among us has become a part of the fabric of our country’s life.

In recent years, our congregations throughout the United States have witnessed firsthand the benefits that the young ‘Dreamers’ have brought to our community programs and life. We have been inspired by, and gained much from, their American spirit.

We urge you to enact permanent, meaningful legislation that will protect ‘Dreamers’ and enable these young people to remain a part of our country—which is also theirs.

Bishop Michael Bruce Curry
XXVII Presiding Bishop

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori
XXVI Presiding Bishop;
Diocese of San Diego

Bishop Frank T. Griswold
XXV Presiding Bishop;
Diocese of Chicago

Bishop Gladstone B. Adams III
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

Bishop Laura J. Ahrens
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Bishop J. Neil Alexander
Diocese of Atlanta

Bishop Craig B. Anderson, Ph.D.
Diocese of South Dakota

Bishop Marc H. Andrus
Diocese of California

Bishop David E. Bailey
The Episcopal Church in Navajoland

Bishop David C. Bane, Jr.
Diocese of Southern Virginia

Bishop J. Scott Barker
Diocese of Nebraska

Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows
Diocese of Indianapolis

Bishop John Bauerschmidt
Diocese of Tennessee

Bishop Nathan D. Baxter
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Bishop Mark Beckwith
Diocese of Newark

Bishop Barry L. Beisner
Diocese of Northern California

Bishop Patrick Bell
Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Bishop Larry Benfield
Diocese of Arkansas

Bishop Scott A. Benhase
Diocese of Georgia

Bishop Tom Breidenthal
Diocese of Southern Ohio

Bishop Gregory O. Brewer
Diocese of Central Florida

Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce
Diocese of Los Angeles

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde
Diocese of Washington

Bishop Joe Goodwin Burnett
Diocese of Nebraska

Bishop Bud Cederholm
Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Michael Creighton
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Bishop James E. Curry
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

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*Acting Dean, Cathedral Church of
Saint John the Divine, NYC*

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Diocese of New York

Bishop Joe Morris Doss
Diocese of New Jersey

Bishop Ian T. Douglas
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Bishop C. Andrew Doyle
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Philip M. Duncan, II
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe, Ph.D.
Diocese of Central New York

Bishop Peter Eaton
Diocese of Southeast Florida

Bishop Thomas C. Ely
The Episcopal Church in Vermont

Bishop Douglas Fisher
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Bishop Jeff Fisher
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Robert L. Fitzpatrick
*Diocese of Hawaii and
the Episcopal Church in Micronesia*

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Diocese of Western New York

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Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.
Diocese of Michigan

Bishop Mary Glasspool
Diocese of New York

Bishop Susan E. Goff
Diocese of Virginia

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Diocese of Fond du Lac

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Diocese of Massachusetts

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Diocese of Texas

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Diocese of Texas; Diocese of Fort Worth

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The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

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Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

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Bishop Edward L. Lee, Jr.
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Bishop Peter James Lee
Diocese of Virginia

Bishop Ed Leidel, Jr.
Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Bishop Edward S. Little II
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Diocese of Fort Worth

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Diocese of Western North Carolina

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Diocese of Pennsylvania;
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Bishop Steven A. Miller
Diocese of Milwaukee

Bishop Hector Monterroso
Diocese of Texas

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Bishop George E. Packard
Armed Services and Federal Ministries

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The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

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Bishop Carl W. Wright
Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

Bishop Robert C. Wright, DD
Diocese of Atlanta

Bishop George D. Young, III
Diocese of East Tennessee

For more information, contact The Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs at publicaffairs@episcopalchurch.org