

# MAINTAIN DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Sign-On Letter for Educators in the Ignatian Network

***“THE DIGNITY OF EVERY HUMAN BEING, PARTICULARLY THAT OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, MUST BE PROTECTED.”***

*Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, Chair of the Migration Committee and Bishop of Austin, Texas*

Dear General Kelly,

As educators at Catholic institutions, we write to convey profound concern for our vulnerable immigrant students. In your new position as Chief of Staff, you are now one of the most prominent Catholics in the Administration. Your direct line to President Trump and recent experience as Secretary of Homeland Security provides an opportunity for you to be an influential champion for the children and youth who are the next generation of American leaders. We ask that you protect the dignity of our nation’s immigrant youth by advocating for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program until Congress passes the Dream Act.

We stand with our students who are DACA beneficiaries. Their perseverance, hard work and hopefulness is an example to us as teachers. We witness the obstacles they overcome each day as they pursue their dream of a better life for themselves and their families. In facing adversity and uncertainty with grace and hope, they embody the best of our schools, our country and the Catholic tradition.

It is a moral and policy failure when our government targets children and young adults who simply aspire to live the American dream. Breaking up families and communities undermines the best values of our nation.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez, Chair of the Migration Committee at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Bishop of Austin, Texas, said recently in a statement:

“These young people entered the U.S. as children and know America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children and youth, must be protected.”

We join Bishop Vasquez in urging you to uphold the DACA program. On several occasions, you have expressed that you would not make changes to DACA. We strongly encourage you to maintain DACA as an essential program for the wellbeing of young people and our communities.

Please know we are praying that you use your power prudently and that we remain committed to constructive dialogue.

