



WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

STATEMENT OF WISCONSIN BISHOPS ON DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA) YOUTH

"Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Amen, I say to you, whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Lk 18:16-17

The bishops of Wisconsin affirm their support for the continued protection of youth under the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Most of the nearly 8,000 DACA Wisconsinites, who are among almost 800,000 DACA young adults nationwide, know no other home than the U.S., having been brought here in their youth through no choice of their own. The DACA program allows these individuals to seek employment and education without fear of being forced to leave their family and home. DACA young adults are students in our schools and universities, leaders in our parishes, veterans of our military, and participants in our economy.

People of goodwill can disagree on whether it was prudent to institute the DACA policy. However, over the past five years, these young individuals have participated in the program and relied upon assurances provided by our nation's government that they could live in security and would be treated with fairness.

We urge Members of Congress to find a legislative solution that protects DACA youth. We also urgently ask that Congress and President Donald Trump commit themselves to achieving permanent and comprehensive immigration reform. We affirm those of our lawmakers who have already expressed their desire to do so, and offer every encouragement to lawmakers of both parties to find a way forward in forging immigration policy that puts aside partisanship for the sake of the common good.

To our DACA youth, we want you to know that we admire your courage, tenacity, and commitment. We are grateful for all that you do for your families, churches, communities, and for this nation. We join our voices with yours and accompany you in these difficult times.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Jerome E. Listeck

The Most Reverend Jerome E. Listeck
Archbishop of Milwaukee

+ David L. Ricken

The Most Reverend David L. Ricken
Bishop of Green Bay

+ Robert C. Morlino

The Most Reverend Robert C. Morlino
Bishop of Madison

+ William P. Callahan

The Most Reverend William P. Callahan
Bishop of La Crosse

+ James P. Powers

The Most Reverend James P. Powers
Bishop of Superior

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