

January 13, 2017

Dear Member of Congress,

On behalf of the undersigned faith-based groups and organizations with deep ties to the faith community, we ask you to support the bipartisan “Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy (BRIDGE) Act,” which would provide temporary relief to those currently protected from detention and deportation under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We are committed to pursuing lasting reforms that repair an outdated and overly punitive immigration system, and our varied faith traditions’ common call to pursue justice compels us to affirm the BRIDGE Act as a crucial interim protection for DACA recipients.

Faith communities across the country have seen firsthand the benefits of giving our beloved undocumented community members a chance to use their talents to succeed. Through DACA, over 741,000 individuals have been able to come out of the shadows and contribute to our society and communities. They have been afforded the ability to lawfully work, obtain driver’s licenses, buy homes and cars, and most importantly, live without the fear of deportation. Unfortunately, President-elect Trump has vowed to undo the executive action that created DACA; withdrawal of the program would severely jeopardize beloved members of our community and inevitably lead to family separation. If enacted, the BRIDGE Act would provide qualified and vetted individuals temporary relief from—in the words of Senator Graham—the fear of being pushed “back into the darkness.”

Rescinding DACA without passing the BRIDGE Act would not only have devastating effects on the recipients and their families, but it would also hurt our economy. Ending DACA would eliminate an estimated \$433.4 billion from the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP)<sup>1</sup> and \$24.6 billion in Social Security and Medicare contributions over a ten year period.<sup>2</sup> We urge all members of Congress to co-sponsor the BRIDGE Act and send a strong message that rescinding DACA has severe moral and economic consequences that Congress cannot allow or afford.

This bipartisan effort will ensure the safety and dignity of nearly one million people who contribute to our communities and love this country as much as we do. We thank Senators Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham for introducing the BRIDGE Act as well as Senators Lisa Murkowski, Dianne Feinstein, Jeff Flake, Chuck Schumer, and Kamala Harris for co-sponsoring the legislation and respecting our nation’s commitment to immigrants.

---

<sup>1</sup> Wolgin, Philip E. *The High Cost of Ending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals*. November 18, 2016. Center for American Progress. <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2016/11/18/292550/the-high-cost-of-ending-deferred-action-for-childhood-arrivals/>

<sup>2</sup> Jose Magana-Salgado. *Money on the Table: The Economic Cost of Ending DACA*. December 2016. Immigrant Legal Resource Center. [https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-12-13\\_ilrc\\_report\\_-\\_money\\_on\\_the\\_table\\_economic\\_costs\\_of\\_ending\\_daca.pdf](https://www.ilrc.org/sites/default/files/resources/2016-12-13_ilrc_report_-_money_on_the_table_economic_costs_of_ending_daca.pdf)

Sincerely,

American Jewish Committee (AJC)  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Bread for the World  
Church World Service  
Refugee and Immigration Ministries,  
    Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada  
Episcopal Church  
Franciscan Action Network  
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)  
HIAS  
Hispanic Ministries,  
    Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Irish Apostolate USA (IAUSA)  
Jesuit Conference of Canada and the United States  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Council of Jewish Women  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Union For Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
Pax Christi USA  
Sojourners  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
WOLA