



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

February 15, 2018

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), representing more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, sponsors, and related health care organizations, I strongly urge you to support a bipartisan solution to protect the current participants of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and the additional one million young undocumented immigrants who were brought to this country as children. A pathway to citizenship for these young people, who already are contributing to our society and nation as students, employees and members of the military, is the just and right thing to do and overwhelmingly supported by a majority of our citizens. This simple protection can and should be done swiftly, without complicating the matter by including any changes to the current legal immigration system.

As an organization guided by the social teachings of the Catholic Church, CHA affirms that each person is created in the image of God, and that each human life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth. In their 2003 pastoral letter on immigration *Strangers No Longer*, the bishops of the United States stated that regardless of their legal status, immigrants, like all persons, possess inherent human dignity which should be respected. While we call on our fellow Americans to respect that dignity within every single immigrant, we also should be particularly mindful of those who were brought to this country as children and have known no other home. They have become a part of the fabric of our nation, and deserve our support and respect.

Unfortunately, the current debate around DACA in Congress has tried to take on too many extraneous measures and introduced an all-too-predictable rush to partisanship that threatens the young immigrants we all seek to bring fully into our society. Please help ensure their future and continued success by enacting bipartisan legislation to keep them safely and permanently in our country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC  
President & CEO