



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

March 26, 2019

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to express our support for HR 6, the “American Dream and Promise Act of 2019.” This legislation would provide lawful permanent residency and a path to citizenship for qualifying young immigrants and holders of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).

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, as well as those fleeing from violent and dangerous situations. These employees, students and members of the military have become a part of the fabric of our nation.

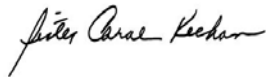
The American Dream and Promise Act would provide permanent resident status on a conditional basis and a path to full lawful permanent residency for qualifying young immigrants.

Additionally, this bill provides lawful permanent resident status for eligible individuals from countries designated for TPS or DED as of 2016 and who have been living in the U.S. for at least

three years. This would grant much-needed protections to these members of our communities, some of whom serve in our health care facilities as nurses, physicians, aides, dietary workers and facility professionals. Catholic health providers have seen first-hand how the “Dreamers” under the DACA program and others with TPS/DED status have benefitted their organizations, and how thousands of other immigrants have contributed to their schools, churches, communities and the economy at large. They deserve better than to live in constant fear and uncertainty.

If you have not already done so, I urge you to become a co-sponsor of the American Dream and Promise Act and to ask your colleagues to join us in support of this legislation. Please feel free to contact me or any member of our advocacy staff if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan".

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC  
President and CEO