



Statement on the Rescinding of DACA and Immigration Reform

Bishop Michael Olson is united with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in denouncing the effects of President Trump's decision to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

"The decision to rescind DACA is cruel and shortsighted. Now is the time for Congress to act responsibly on comprehensive immigration reform to protect families vulnerable to separation and to provide for the just flourishing of our economic and common good." Bishop Olson added, "It is the appropriate responsibility of Congress to address the immigration system with reform that takes into account the reality of familial relationships, especially those of children and adolescents."

Olson joined his voice with those of his brother bishops of Texas who jointly stated, "We denounce the termination of DACA. Under the program, more than 110,000 young adults brought to Texas as children received work authorization and reprieve from deportation. DACA youth contribute to the economy, serve honorably in our armed forces, excel in our schools and universities, minister in our churches, and volunteer in our communities."

Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) officials note that DACA is the executive action issued by President Obama in 2012. The order enables some immigrants who traveled to the USA as children to appeal to deferred action offered under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. Such recipients are able to live in the U.S. lawfully, but are not granted the status of citizenship. Legal presence means that the person can live, work and attend school without threat of deportation (unless they engage in unlawful behavior), but will not be eligible for many state and federal benefits.

As part of its immigration services, CCFW assists individuals in attaining DACA status, as well as guiding several through case management and on the path to be out of poverty. In Texas, 91 percent of DACA recipients are employed and paying taxes.

Bishop Olson is asking Catholics and all people of North Texas to join him in urging the representatives in Congress who serve the population within the territory of the Diocese of Fort Worth to reform the immigration system that will, in part, enable the positive effects of DACA to continue. Bishop Olson asks, "Please call and write the member of Congress, including our senators, who represents the people of your district. It is time for Congress to work together on immigration to address the needs of so many people, including citizens and employers, who will otherwise be adversely affected by the termination of DACA."

Members of Congress who serve the population within the territorial confines of the Diocese of Fort Worth and how to contact each is as follows:

Congresswoman Kay Granger
1701 River Run Suite 407
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Phone: (817) 338-0909
Fax: (817) 335-5852

Congressman Marc Veasey
6707 Brentwood Stair Rd Ste 200
Fort Worth, TX 76112
Phone: (817) 920-9086
Fax: (817) 920-9324

Congressman Joe Barton
6001 W. Ronald Reagan Meml Hwy, #200
Arlington, Texas 76017
Phone: (817) 543-1000
Fax: (817) 548-7029

Congressman Roger Williams
115 South Main Street Suite 206
Cleburne, TX 76033
Phone: (817) 774-2575
Fax: (817) 774-2576

Congressman Mac Thornberry
2525 Kell Blvd., Ste 406
Wichita Falls, TX 76308-2829
Phone: (940) 692-1700
Fax: (940) 692-0539

Congressman Kenny Marchant
9901 E. Valley Ranch Pkwy, Ste. 2060
Irving, Texas 75063
Phone: (972) 556-0162
Fax: (972) 409-9704

Congressman Michael Burgess
2000 South Stemmons Freeway, Suite 200
Lake Dallas, TX 75065
Phone: 940) 497-5031
Fax: (940) 497-5067

“We stand in solidarity with each of you with DACA status,” added Bishops Olson. If you are uncertain, how this impacts you, our Catholic Charities is on standby to assist you.”

Though no new DACA applications will be accepted, DACA renewals are available to those whose work permits (EADs) expire on or before March 5, 2018. Any EAD (Employment Authorization Documents) that expire after this date are not eligible for renewal. Applications that are eligible for renewal must be submitted by October 5, 2017. If you are eligible, please set up an appointment with Catholic Charities Immigration Services as soon as possible, which has opened up more appointments to accommodate as many people as possible.

Appointments must be made over the phone or in-person. To schedule appointment over the phone, call 817 289-399 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Monday through Friday. To schedule in-person, come to Catholic Charities main campus located at 249 West Thornhill Drive, Fort Worth, Texas from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The full USCCB statement is at: <http://www.usccb.org/news/2017/17-157.cfm>

The full Texas Conference of Catholic Bishops statement is at: <https://txcatholic.org/bishops-denounce-ending-daca-and-urge-lasting-reform/>