



CHURCH & SOCIETY

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

The United Methodist Church
General Board of Church and Society
100 Maryland Ave NE
Washington, DC 20002

November 3, 2017

Dear Members of Congress:

The General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church calls for the immediate passage of the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1650/H.R. 3440). Since 2012, The United Methodist Church has, with Resolution #3164, called on Congress to pass the Dream Act, stating,

“Whereas, for generations workers and their young children have come to the US without authorization to satisfy the labor needs of our nation, contributing to its economic development; and,

“Whereas, these children are being penalized by increased college tuition and are denied the opportunity to practice their profession because of their immigration status; and

“Whereas, the Federal DREAM Act, first introduced in Congress in 2001, is a bipartisan legislation that would open the possibility of higher education, as well as a conditional pathway to US citizenship, for undocumented students who were brought to the US as children (before their 16th birthday), and who are now caught in a situation that is not of their own making... *Therefore*, we, the General Conference of The UMC, urge the US Congress to adopt the DREAM Act and provide for these children, who have lived most their lives in this country, access to educational opportunities and full participation in the life of the only nation they have known, and identify with, the US.”

Knowing that God calls us to compassionate, just, and timely action, we urge passage of this crucial legislation now. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) was a critical first step to fixing our broken immigration system and welcoming persons who migrate. The recent rescission of this program was an unconscionable action contrary to moral work and witness. Should Congress fail to act to protect DACA recipients and their families, this immoral action would stand as the law of the land.

Any reforms to the U.S. immigration system must protect family unity, affirm the worth and dignity of persons who are migrants, and uphold their human rights. The Dream Act of 2017 follows these aims. We urge its passage and we oppose its use as a bartering tool for other infringements on immigrant justice.

Dreamers stand in our pulpits and sit in our pews. We stand with them. We stand with their families. We stand with immigrant communities and call on you to do the same.

Sincerely,

The Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe
General Secretary, General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church