

# JUSTICE, PEACE AND SAFEGUARDING CREATION

## U.S. Bishops Support Anti-Deportation BRIDGE Act

Remember the Dream Act? It was the path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants that Congress blocked year after year. Frustrated, President Obama issued an executive order in 2012 creating DACA: “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals,” to protect young adults from deportation who were brought to the U.S. as children, allowing them to go to college, find legal jobs, pay taxes, and support their families while Congress debated a permanent solution through comprehensive immigration reform.



Kids at a DACA rally / Photo: America By the Numbers

With Trump, no one is certain what will happen with DACA or the information provided by DACA applicants. During his campaign, he threatened to eliminate DACA. Since then, Trump has made statements hinting that he may find a way to allow “dreamers” to stay in the U.S. However, no one knows exactly what that means, so there is no guarantee that he will not eliminate the DACA program once he is in office.

Enter the bipartisan “Bar Removal of Individuals who Dream and Grow our Economy Act” authored by Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democratic Senator Richard Durbin. It will be re-introduced to Congress after the New Year. The BRIDGE Act would allow immigrants eligible for Obama’s protections to remain and work in the US for three years under Trump--even if he dismantles DACA.

The U.S. Bishops just sent a letter to the Senate calling for support of the BRIDGE Act, so that these young people who are “contributing so much to our nation can continue to live their lives free of the anxiety that they could at any time be deported to a country they do not know and be separated from their families.”

I encourage you to keep the momentum going for the BRIDGE Act.

Please click: <https://attritioncoalition.org/support-the-bridge-act/> to send a message to your Congresspersons. California friars: Sen. Nancy Pelosi is already a co-sponsor of the bill. Let’s encourage everyone else to get on board. It is the Franciscan thing to do.--Bro. Mark