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Evangelicals

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World Relief

Last week, the White House released a proposal for an immigration bill that would address the situation of those whose DACA protections are poised to expire. We are encouraged by President Trump's embrace of an opportunity for Dreamers—young people brought to the United States as children—to eventually earn citizenship in the country that they consider their home. We believe this framework will push Congress to work toward bipartisan legislation that achieves a permanent solution for Dreamers and improved border security.

These Dreamers include many who are well-integrated members of our churches, campuses, ministries, and local communities, and ensuring that they can remain in the United States is our top priority. We thank President Trump for his support for legal status for DACA recipients and other DACA-eligible immigrants, which would allow those who have benefitted from DACA and others who arrived as children, not of their own choice, to continue to work lawfully and contribute to our country without fear of deportation.

Because the one-page framework released does not clarify every detail, there are significant questions that will need to be answered as this framework is developed into legislative text. First, we believe immigration policy should protect the unity of the family, as the family is a God-ordained institution that forms the foundation of any healthy society. Second, we believe that enacting strict limitations to legal immigration will only increase pressure for illegal immigration. We believe we should facilitate legal immigration at a level that sustains economic growth, reunites families, and protects those fleeing danger or persecution. Third, we are concerned that some elements of this proposal extend beyond those issues relevant to a solution for Dreamers. We agree with the President that we should first address a solution for Dreamers and then move to comprehensive immigration reform.

We thank President Trump for engaging in this important debate, and hope it will contribute to the bipartisan work already underway in Congress to allow Dreamers the opportunity to earn citizenship while improving border security.

Sincerely,

Leith Anderson, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Scott Arbeiter, President, World Relief

Shirley V. Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Hyepin Im, President & CEO, Korean Churches for Community Development/Faith and Community Empowerment

Jo Anne Lyon, Ambassador, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Russell Moore, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Samuel Rodriguez, President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference