

## Evangelical Immigration Table

Council for Christian Colleges  
and Universities

Ethics and Religious Liberty  
Commission of the Southern  
Baptist Convention

Korean Churches for  
Community Development/Faith  
and Community Empowerment

National Association of  
Evangelicals

National Hispanic Christian  
Leadership Conference

The Wesleyan Church

World Relief

January 9, 2018

Dear Member of Congress,

As evangelical leaders, we have long been deeply concerned about the situation of Dreamers. Our concern is rooted in our commitment to the Bible, which speaks repeatedly of God's love and concern for both immigrants and for children: these young immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children—on average, at the age of six—are in a uniquely vulnerable situation. Whatever one's views on how to respond to the broader immigration challenges our country faces, we believe that it is unjust to hold these young people responsible for decisions made by their parents.

The plight of Dreamers is also very personal to us. These Dreamers include many committed members of our local churches, students at our Christian college, university, and seminary campuses, and volunteers and staff members within our organizations. With the rapidly approaching termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, our concerns for these young people are increasingly urgent.

We are disappointed that, nearly four months after the announcement of the termination of the DACA program, there has still been no legislative solution for these young people. Polls suggest that more than 80% of Americans—including most evangelical Christians—want Congress to act to allow DACA recipients to maintain their jobs and protection from deportation. The president has also directly called upon Congress to “legalize DACA” and has indicated his unwillingness to “hurt these kids.” Still, while few Members of Congress on either side of the aisle are publicly opposed to a legislative solution for Dreamers, it does not seem to be a priority. We write to impress upon you the urgency of this situation.

As they celebrated Christmas this year, tens of thousands of DACA recipients faced the possibility that they will lose their jobs in March. Even now, the work authorizations of Dreamers are expiring at the rate of hundreds per week. At this point, even if Congress were to pass and the President sign a bill into law today there would likely not be time for the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service to create new forms and open up a process for individuals with employment authorization cards expiring in March 2018 to renew them in time.

As a result, employers will be required by law to lay off hardworking employees whom they have trained and in whom they have invested. These Dreamer employees will lose their only source of income, which for some will mean being unable to pay tuition (and in some cases having to drop out of college or graduate school), being unable to make mortgage, rent, or car payments, or even being unable to buy groceries for their U.S. citizen children. The longer that Congress defers action on a legislative solution, the more individuals and families there are who will be directly harmed.

As we and many others represented by our churches and organizations serve and minister alongside these young people, we witness the very real anxieties that they face. **We continue to call on you to take action now on a legislative solution that allows these young people to continue working lawfully,**

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**to continue contributing to our communities. We ask that you assure them that they belong in the country that they view as their home.**

Respectfully,

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, 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