

THE *Episcopal* CHURCH



**"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers
for by doing so, some have entertained angels unawares."**
(H EBREWS 13:1)

President Donald Trump and Members of Congress,

As bishops of the Episcopal Church we implore you not to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, known as DACA. To do so would endanger the lives of thousands of young people and their families and run contrary to the faith and moral traditions of our country.

It is unfair to threaten the well-being of young people who arrived in our country as children through no choice of their own. Ending DACA without a similar replacement program will force these young people to face the future in this country with little access to education and employment, and ultimately, could very well lead to sending them to countries where they did not grow up, have few support structures, may not even speak the language and may be vulnerable to violence and persecution.

Any of these scenarios, we believe, is cruel.

The alternative for us as a country is to move forward, to celebrate and benefit from the presence of these 'Dreamers' and to provide a pathway to citizenship that enables them to remain and strengthen our country.

The Episcopal Church has long advocated for bipartisan comprehensive immigration reforms that prioritize family unity and humanitarian concerns. It is time for Congress to develop long-term solutions for immigrant families.

In front of most of the Episcopal Churches across the country is a sign that says, 'The Episcopal Church Welcomes You.' We have this sign because we are followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth, and our Christian tradition shares with many other faith bodies the absolute importance of welcoming the foreigner in our midst. Throughout the centuries this tradition has brought us great wisdom and strength as the foreigner among us has become a part of the fabric of our country's life.

In recent years, our congregations throughout the United States have witnessed firsthand the benefits that the young 'Dreamers' have brought to our community programs and life. We have been inspired by, and gained much from, their American spirit.

We urge you to enact permanent, meaningful legislation that will protect 'Dreamers' and enable these young people to remain a part of our country—which is also theirs.

Bishop Michael Bruce Curry
XXVII Presiding Bishop

Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori
XXVI Presiding Bishop;
Diocese of San Diego

Bishop Frank T. Griswold
XXV Presiding Bishop;
Diocese of Chicago

Bishop Gladstone B. Adams III
The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

Bishop Laura J. Ahrens
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Bishop J. Neil Alexander
Diocese of Atlanta

Bishop Craig B. Anderson, Ph.D.
Diocese of South Dakota

Bishop Marc H. Andrus
Diocese of California

Bishop David E. Bailey
The Episcopal Church in Navajoland

Bishop David C. Bane, Jr.

Diocese of Southern Virginia

Bishop J. Scott Barker

Diocese of Nebraska

Bishop Jennifer Baskerville-Burrows

Diocese of Indianapolis

Bishop John Bauerschmidt

Diocese of Tennessee

Bishop Nathan D. Baxter

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Bishop Mark Beckwith

Diocese of Newark

Bishop Barry L. Beisner

Diocese of Northern California

Bishop Patrick Bell

Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Bishop Larry Benfield

Diocese of Arkansas

Bishop Scott A. Benhase

Diocese of Georgia

Bishop Tom Breidenthal

Diocese of Southern Ohio

Bishop Gregory O. Brewer

Diocese of Central Florida

Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce

Diocese of Los Angeles

Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde

Diocese of Washington

Bishop Joe Goodwin Burnett

Diocese of Nebraska

Bishop Bud Cederholm

Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Michael Creighton

Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Bishop James E. Curry

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Bishop Clifton Daniel

Acting Dean, Cathedral Church of Saint John the Divine, NYC

Bishop Andrew M. L. Dietsche

Diocese of New York

Bishop Joe Morris Doss

Diocese of New Jersey

Bishop Ian T. Douglas
The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

Bishop C. Andrew Doyle
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Philip M. Duncan, II
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe, Ph.D.
Diocese of Central New York

Bishop Peter Eaton
Diocese of Southeast Florida

Bishop Thomas C. Ely
The Episcopal Church in Vermont

Bishop Douglas Fisher
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Bishop Jeff Fisher
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Robert L. Fitzpatrick
Diocese of Hawaii and the Episcopal Church in Micronesia

Bishop R. William Franklin
Diocese of Western New York

Bishop Alan M. Gates
Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Wendell N. Gibbs, Jr.
Diocese of Michigan

Bishop Mary Glasspool
Diocese of New York

Bishop Susan E. Goff
Diocese of Virginia

Bishop Duncan Gray
Diocese of Mississippi

Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves
Diocese of El Camino Real

Bishop William O. Gregg, Ph.D.
Diocese of Eastern Oregon

Bishop J. Clark Grew
Diocese of Ohio

Bishop Matthew Gunter
Diocese of Fond du Lac

Bishop Sanford Z. K. Hampton
Diocese of Olympia; The Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Bishop Michael Hanley
Diocese of Oregon

Bishop Gayle E. Harris
Diocese of Massachusetts

Bishop Dena Harrison
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Rayford B. High, Jr.
Diocese of Texas; Diocese of Fort Worth

Bishop A. Robert Hirschfeld
The Episcopal Church of New Hampshire

Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple
Diocese of North Carolina

Bishop Herman Hollerith
Diocese of Southern Virginia

Bishop Mark Hollingsworth, Jr.
Diocese of Ohio

Bishop Harold A. Hopkins
Diocese of North Dakota

Bishop Whayne M. Hougland, Jr.
Diocese of Western Michigan

Bishop Barry R. Howe
Diocese of Southwest Florida; Diocese of West Missouri

Bishop George N. Hunt
Diocese of Rhode Island

Bishop David Colin Jones
Diocese of Virginia

Bishop Russell Kendrick
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

Bishop W. Michie Klusmeyer
Diocese of West Virginia

Bishop W. Nicholas Knisely
Diocese of Rhode Island

Bishop Chilton R. Knudsen
Diocese of Maryland

Bishop Edward J. Konieczny, D.Min., DD
Diocese of Oklahoma

Bishop Stephen T. Lane
Diocese of Maine

Bishop Edward L. Lee, Jr.
Diocese of Western Michigan

Bishop Peter James Lee
Diocese of Virginia

Bishop Ed Leidel, Jr.
Diocese of Eastern Michigan

Bishop Edward S. Little II
Diocese of Northern Indiana

Bishop James B. Magness, D.Min., DD
Diocese of Southern Virginia

Bishop Paul Marshall
Diocese of Bethlehem

Bishop J. Scott Mayer
Diocese of Northwest Texas; Diocese of Fort Worth

Bishop Dorsey W. M. McConnell, DD
Diocese of Pittsburgh

Bishop Jack M. McKelvey
Diocese of Rochester

Bishop José Antonio McLoughlin
Diocese of Western North Carolina

Bishop Rodney Michel
Diocese of Pennsylvania; Diocese of Long Island

Bishop Steven A. Miller
Diocese of Milwaukee

Bishop Hector Monterroso
Diocese of Texas

Bishop Robert J. O'Neill
The Episcopal Church in Colorado

Bishop Jacob W. Owensby, Ph.D., DD
Diocese of Western Louisiana

Bishop George E. Packard
Armed Services and Federal Ministries

Bishop Claude E. Payne
Diocese of Texas

Bishop William D. Persell
Diocese of Ohio; Diocese of Chicago

Bishop Kenneth L. Price, Jr.
Diocese of Southern Ohio

Bishop Brian N. Prior
The Episcopal Church in Minnesota

Bishop Lawrence C. Provenzano
Diocese of Long Island

Bishop Rayford J. Ray
Diocese of Northern Michigan

Bishop David Reed
Diocese of West Texas

Bishop Gretchen Rehberg
Diocese of Spokane

Bishop David Rice
Diocese of San Joaquin

Bishop Samuel Rodman
Diocese of North Carolina

Bishop Jeffery Rowthorn
Episcopal Churches in Europe

Bishop Audrey C. Scanlan
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Bishop Victor A. Scantlebury
Diocese of Central Ecuador

Bishop Alan Scarfe
Diocese of Iowa

Bishop Gordon Scruton
Diocese of Western Massachusetts

Bishop Brian R. Seage
Diocese of Mississippi

Bishop James J. Shand
Diocese of Easton

Bishop Allen K. Shin
Diocese of New York

Bishop Prince G. Singh
Diocese of Rochester

Bishop Rob Skirving
Diocese of East Carolina

Bishop William E. Smalley
Diocese of Kansas

Bishop George Wayne Smith
Diocese of Missouri

Bishop Kirk Stevan Smith
Diocese of Arizona

Bishop John S. Smylie
Diocese of Wyoming

Bishop Douglas Sparks
Diocese of Northern Indiana

Bishop William H. (Chip) Stokes
Diocese of New Jersey

Bishop John T. Tarrant
Diocese of South Dakota

Bishop John Harvey Taylor
Diocese of Los Angeles

Bishop Martin G. Townsend
Diocese of Easton

Bishop Mark Van Koevering
Diocese of West Virginia

Bishop Charles G. vonRosenberg
Diocese of East Tennessee; The Episcopal Church in South Carolina

Bishop Michael L. Vono, DD
Diocese of the Rio Grande

Bishop W. Andrew Waldo
Diocese of Upper South Carolina

Bishop Cate Waynick
Diocese of Indianapolis

Bishop Pierre Whalon
Episcopal Churches in Europe

Bishop Terry A. White
Diocese of Kentucky

Bishop Geralyn Wolf
Diocese of Long Island

Bishop Carl W. Wright
Armed Forces and Federal Ministries

Bishop Robert C. Wright, DD
Diocese of Atlanta

Bishop George D. Young, III
Diocese of East Tennessee