**The Fight for the DREAM Act in Michigan**

Regardless of how or why people have come to America, we each share some common ideals and values; freedom, equality, opportunity and justice. America does not always live up to these ideals and values – and Trump’s recent decisions to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for many immigrant communities are some of the most recent examples– but we must persist.

At MCHR, we support the efforts of allied organizations and coalitions calling on **members of Congress to pass a clean DREAM Act and a bill for TPS recipients that will allow young Americans the opportunity to continue the lives they have built in this country.** We must not compromise our dreams. We cannot be a country that holds these young lives hostage to the demands of the white supremacist faction in the country. We will not bow down to Trump’s deportation machinery. We believe families should stay together. It is immoral to force young Americans to choose between citizenship and deportation of their parents. America must be better than that.

A small vocal racist minority should not be allowed to overtake any party. Passing a clean DREAM Act should not be a partisan issue. Rather, it’s a question of morality and doing what’s right. So, to those elected officials who don’t want to do the right thing, we say “good luck in 2018.” Any politician who has the gall to stare down these young people, who personify all that is good about America, *and tell them to leave* better watch out. We will make sure that Latinx and millennials turn out in droves to vote out politicians who don’t stand with DACA youth.

The recent elections of Nov. 7 are a warning sign to politicians considering to adopt Trump’s, hateful, racist and divisive agenda. Good spirited Americans all across the country voted to replace transphobic politicians with transgender representatives; to replace islamophobic politicians with Muslim and Sikh leaders; to replaced racist politicians with people of color and most importantly voters sent a clear message to politicians that they are tired of the hateful, racist and divisive politics of Trump.

Voters want to unite as a nation across race, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity. Americans are so thirsty for a moment of unity, so tired of partisan grandstanding and DREAMers are such a fundamentally American story – that whoever gets there first on a bold and generous solution will reap the political benefits. That’s what the American people want: 76% want Dreamers to remain either as citizens or permanent legal residents, including [*two-thirds of self-identified Trump voters*](https://www.brookings.edu/blog/fixgov/2017/09/13/two-thirds-of-trump-supporters-want-dreamers-to-stay-in-u-s/)*.* At a time when so many issues divide Americans down the middle – the DREAM Act unifies all but the most radical racist fringes of America.

We cannot forget about why we are standing so strongly behind the DREAM Act. This bill will protect the hopes and dreams of nearly 800,000 young Americans, allowing us to dream big and embrace the future in a country we call home. The DREAM Act is the first, but definitely not the last, step in our effort to ensure that our immigration policies protect TPS recipients fleeing wars and natural disasters, keep families together and provide 11 million immigrants in this country with the opportunity to live up to the ideals and values of what it means to be an American. All our families deserve that chance.

Our allies at Michigan United have been leading efforts on this campaign in Detroit, Kalamazoo and Oakland County. They have met with Congress representatives from both parties to request that they pass a clean DREAM Act before the holidays. They are planning direct actions and are traveling to Washington DC to urge Congress to do the right thing and pass the DREAM Act before the holidays. If you wish to get involved, please click on this link to volunteer <https://goo.gl/forms/tZbGwI23xQ0I8ulr1> or contact Adonis Flores via email at adonis@miunited.org or by phone at 313-658-2389.