

RE: The Executive Order rescinding the Dream Act

The President has rescinded the Obama Executive Order creating the DREAM Act. With one stroke of a pen 800,000 people who were protected from deportation through DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) have been thrown into anxiety and fear. This is not only a reprehensible action, it is also deeply inhumane to the Dreamers, their families and friends, and makes a mockery of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance wherein we proclaim ourselves to be “one Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.” These people are not strangers. They are our brothers and sisters, our neighbors, our co-workers, our friends; they are us.

I believe that this stroke of a pen is calling us to social justice as God’s people. Like many of you, I pledged social justice as part of my baptismal vows. At ordination to the Diaconate and to the sacred order of Priests, I vowed to strive for social justice and seek others for a similar path to do God’s work for his children. I accepted the call to be the Episcopal Bishop of Utah with the people’s wish that I minister to those who cry out for justice. I believe God is calling me and you as Christians to help those who are now living in fear as victims of racism, victims of exploitation, and victims of boisterous political rhetoric.

In Utah, there are 10,000 Dreamers making this a better state. All 10,000 young Utahns basically grew up in the United States of America, were educated in America, and they were told they could come out of the shadows. They did and passed background checks. Virtually all of them are in school or in the work force. More importantly, all were given permission to live and work in Utah. We cannot be the people who allow that permission to ever risk being withdrawn. We must contact our Congressional delegation and demand that this is not a country that expels those who were given permission to stay. This is not a nation that should ever break a trust in gathering names and addresses in the government’s assurance of hope and then using that information to possibly deport 10,000 Utahns.

This is not a decision based on economic, public safety, or other issues of public well-being. Again, all Dreamers were vetted for any criminal record or possible threat to our country. All Dreamers must have either met educational or military service requirements. If they are not currently in school, they must have already graduated from high school or obtained a GED. Otherwise, they must have been honorably discharged from the Coast Guard or armed forces. For many the Dream

Act made college a reality. Additionally, for all of us, the end of DACA means the loss of the 8,000 Dreamers in the Utah work force that represent a \$477 million dollar loss in the Utah GNP if they are removed and deported to a country they probably don't even know as they grew up in America. (Center for American Progress figures).

To those of my friends, neighbors, co-workers and family members who are among those Dreamers, I pledge that I will write Congress, I will speak of your contributions to society, to furthering education and to our economy. I will write and speak to any who will listen and most importantly to those who won't listen at this time. I ask those in our diocese to join me. I will ask those outside of our faith, but who see the Episcopal Church as the inclusive church pledged to see all as God's children to join me.

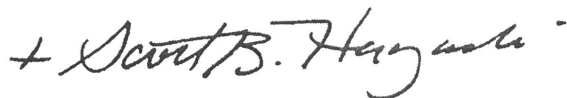
I believe most of you know my position on immigration and social justice. On nearly my first day at the diocese after my election as Bishop, and even before my consecration as Bishop, I appeared at a rally for immigration at *This is the Place* monument. I have appeared at numerous rallies since.

We, as Utahns have long supported and cherished our immigrants. Diana Hardy, BYU Law School grad and Immigration Committee Lead of Mormon Women for Ethical Government offered an insightful observation in an op-ed published by the *Deseret News*. She writes, "The only explanation for wanting to deport them is simple animosity or misguided nationalism. We're better than that."

I agree and say God commands us as Christians to indeed be "better than that." President Trump has passed the fate of the Dream Act onto Congress. I ask all to write your Senators and Representatives now, and ask that they represent all of us. Do it for our neighbors, our co-workers and our friends. Do it for us.

To find who your Representative is go here:
<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

To find how to contact your Senators go here:
https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott B. Hardy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

11th Bishop of Utah