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***Statement of the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut
Concerning the Enactment of DACA Legislation***

September 2017

In response to the pending elimination of the *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals* (DACA) program, the Catholic Bishops of Connecticut call upon our state's Congressional delegation to strongly support legislation that would continue this just and humane program.


The DACA program assists many undocumented young people, who were brought to this nation by their parents as children, to become educated and participating members of our society. It assists these young people - approximately 8,000 in Connecticut - to follow their dreams in creating a life for themselves in a country that they have called home since their childhood. They had no voice in the decision that brought them to the United States, but with the DACA program they do have a voice in how they will contribute to the country they have come to know and love.

Many of these young people would be torn from the only country they have really known and be sent to countries for which they hold no memories. Many would lose their educational, work and military service opportunities that would make them contributing members of our society. The resulting deportations would not be consistent with our history as a nation largely of immigrants nor would it reflect the biblical injunction of the book of Leviticus that "when an alien resides with you in your land, do not mistreat such a one" (Lv. 19:33).


The Connecticut Bishops' Statement on Immigration "To See the Immigrant Through the Eyes of Faith" which was issued in May 2008, continues to represent our concerns.

We ask our Congressional delegation to work with members of both major political parties in obtaining the passage of DACA legislation before the six month grace period provided for in the President's Executive Order expires. We ask our Catholic brothers and sisters to pray and reflect deeply on this issue and to remember that Christ taught that our "neighbor" is anyone that needs us. We finally ask all the people of Connecticut, no matter what their faith, to support these young immigrants and the passage of DACA legislation.

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Most Reverend Leonard P. Blair
Archbishop of Hartford

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Most Reverend Michael R. Cote
Bishop of Norwich

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Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano
Bishop of Bridgeport

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