



# USFRANCISCANS

FRANCISCAN FRIARS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
PO Box 61128 | NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 02746 | (860) 759-2427  
[exec@escofm.org](mailto:exec@escofm.org)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
*September 5, 2017*

As leaders and members of the Franciscan Order in the United States, we object in strenuous terms to the decision of President Donald Trump to rescind the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). This decision constitutes a rejection of the 2012 executive order by President Barack Obama that allowed young immigrants, who were brought to the United States by their parents, to seek the opportunity to realize their full potential. President Obama's executive order was not only moral, it also responded to the highest ideals of our nation.

The 780,000 "dreamers" (those who have received deferred action) are good, generous, talented and hard-working individuals. Many of them we know personally in and through our various Franciscan ministries. We have celebrated the DACA program with them as a modern response to the Biblical imperative to "welcome the stranger." Now, after President Trump's decision to end the executive action, we commit ourselves to stand in support of and solidarity with "dreamers."

We urge all members of the communities we serve to condemn this unnecessary and harmful order by President Trump. Furthermore, we call upon all to contact their members of Congress and urge them to pass legislation that will fully welcome "dreamers" to our nation, remove the permanent shadow of their temporary status and make it illegal to deport or harm them. We join the U.S. Catholic Bishops in advocating for the bi-partisan "Dream Act of 2017," H.R.3440 and S. 1615. This legislation can help "dreamers" receive a piece of the security and human dignity they and all people deserve.

Unless a permanent legislative solution is enacted that welcomes and fully incorporates the young men and women "dreamers" who are already a vibrant part of our communities, our society will take yet another step on the path of moral and social decline.

## **PROVINCIAL MINISTERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Very Rev. Robert Campagna, OFM  
*Immaculate Conception Province*  
*New York, New York*

Very Rev. Kevin Mullen, OFM  
*Holy Name Province*  
*New York, New York*

Very Rev. Jack Clark Robinson, OFM  
*Our Lady of Guadalupe Province*  
*Albuquerque, New Mexico*

Very Rev. David Gaa, OFM  
*St. Barbara Province*  
*Oakland, California*

Very Rev. Thomas Nairn, OFM  
*Sacred Heart Province*  
*St. Louis, Missouri*

Very Rev. Mark Soehner, OFM  
*St. John the Baptist Province*  
*Cincinnati, Ohio*

Very Rev. James Gannon, OFM  
*Assumption BVM Province*  
*Franklin, Wisconsin*