



November 1, 2017

Dear Senator/Representative:

I write on behalf of the Scalabrini International Migration Network (SIMN), a network of 270 programs — shelters, schools, and parishes— serving migrants globally and founded and operated by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Charles, Scalabrinians. SIMN urges you to pass S. 1615, the DREAM Act, as soon as possible.

As pastors and service providers working with migrants, every day we witness the suffering of families attempting to migrate simply to survive, either because of persecution and conflict or because they are unable to support themselves in their home countries.

Often children and minors are part of the migrant stream, following the direction of their parents or family members. They have great potential and energy, but, because they were brought to the United States at a young age, they only know this country as their home.

With the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival (DACA) program being ended by the Trump Administration, it is incumbent upon Congress to protect these vulnerable youth. The DREAM Act would give them an opportunity to fully contribute their talents and skills to our country through a path to citizenship.

The undocumented youth that would benefit from the DREAM Act are virtually Americans already. According to a study by the Center for Migration Studies of New York, 91 percent speak English well, 89 percent are employed, and 85 percent have lived in the country for 10 years or longer.

Removing them from the country would not only undermine our values as a nation, it also would hurt our economy, as we would lose the energy, work, and contributions these young people make to businesses, non-profit groups, and other organizations around the country. According to the CATO Institute, the deportation of these youth would cost the United States more than \$280 billion in economic growth.

I ask that you support passage of S. 1615, so that undocumented youth, who did not enter the country illegally on their own volition, can become full Americans. If the legislation is not passed, many could face deportation to countries they do not know, thus jeopardizing their futures. It also would be a stain on our national character, a nation built by the hard work of immigrants.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Leonir Chiarello".

Fr. Leonir Chiarello
Executive Director

Scalabrini International Migration Network