



DIOCESE OF CHEYENNE

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Bishop Steven Biegler of the Catholic Diocese of Cheyenne releases a statement in support of DACA

Re: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) youth

The Catholic Bishops of the USA have long supported DACA youth, and I personally want to affirm my support of these young people. DACA youth are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes. These young people entered the U.S. as children and know America as their only home. The dignity of every human being, particularly that of our children and youth, must be protected.

Since 2012, nearly 800,000 of these young people have come forward, passed background checks, paid a fee, and received permission to live and work in America. With DACA they have advanced their education, started small businesses and more fully established themselves as integral members of our society.

I urge our lawmakers to publicly support DACA youth here in Wyoming and the USA. They should know that as the Catholic bishop of our state, I support these young people. Also, I call upon our elected officials to move forward in a bipartisan manner and find a permanent legislative solution to ensure that DACA youth can remain in the United States and can continue to reach their God-given potential. One such existing proposal is the bipartisan DREAM Act of 2017. Together with Mike Leman, the Diocese of Cheyenne Legislative Liaison, I promise to work with lawmakers from all parties to ensure that DACA youth are able to stay in this country and live without fear.

Lastly, to DACA youth and their families, I join my voice to Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, Chair of the USCCB Migration Committee and Bishop of Austin, Texas, who said: "Please know that the Catholic Church stands in solidarity with you. We recognize your intrinsic value as children of God. We understand the anxiety and fear you face, and we appreciate and applaud the daily contributions you make with your families, to local communities and parishes, and to our country."