

EPPN-CA
Episcopal Public Policy Network of California

A CALL TO PRAYER

**Episcopal call to prayer throughout California
for DREAMERS and the DACA program**

upon the occasion of oral arguments before the Supreme Court on Tues, Nov 12, 2019.

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At this time, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and recipients, the DREAMERS (DACA recipients), need your prayers. They are in the greatest jeopardy and have the greatest opportunity since DACA was first created in 2012. The current Administration cancelled it in 2017. Since then, DREAMERS have been able to remain in the U.S. by a series of court decisions and appeals.

When DACA was cancelled, the Presiding Bishop and President of the House of Deputies issued a CALL TO PRAYER. After any number of appeals, DACA has now come before the Supreme Court. Oral arguments will be heard on Tuesday, Nov. 12. The future of about 800,000 DREAMERS, plus their families, congregations, employers, universities, and all others who depend on them, lies in the balance. Of the national total, one-fourth of DREAMERS have made their home in California. About 223,000 DREAMERS* are our friends and neighbors.

**We offer a “Call to Prayer” at this critical time.
LET US JOIN WITH OTHER CALIFORNIA EPISCOPALIANS, IN PRAYER.**

In order to facilitate our prayer together, we have sent you the following

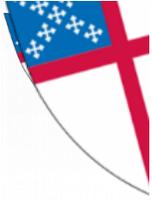
ATTACHMENTS

- Prayers and a short quote for use in the Prayers of the People, in a bulletin insert, on social media, for daily prayer, for a press release, as you wish
- The “Call to Prayer” in full, by the Most Rev. Michael Curry and the Rev Gay Clark Jennings, President of the House of Deputies
- Information on the upcoming Supreme Court DACA hearing, November 12, 2019.

You’re receiving this Call to Prayer from the EPPN-CA. As you may recall, the bishops of the six dioceses of California convened the EPPN-CA so that California’s Episcopalians could address the social justice issues impacting the state as a body. Among the social justice issues of our time, we are focusing primarily on immigration, climate change, and homelessness.

Faithfully, Mr. Tom Hampson, 209-402-9908 The Rev. Anna Lange-Soto, 650-245-7759
Hampson1412@gmail.com

*“Californians and DACA” by [Lunna Lopes](https://www.ppic.org/blog/californians-and-daca/) February 26, 2018, Public Policy Institute of California,
<https://www.ppic.org/blog/californians-and-daca/>



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PRAYERS AND A SHORT QUOTE

For use in the Prayers of the People, in a bulletin insert, on social media, for daily prayer, for a press release, you wish.

YOU ARE INVITED TO USE THESE PRAYERS

- In daily prayer before, during, and after the Nov 12.
- In the Prayers of the People on Sunday, November 10, 2019
- On Tuesday, November 12, 2019, the day when the US Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on the three consolidated cases related to DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) legal immigration status.
- In short, whenever and wherever you wish.

Almighty God, who sits in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech you to bless the Supreme Court and its justices, and all the magistrates of this land; and give to them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in reverence of you alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen. (Adapted from Book of Common Prayer, p. 821, #21)

Look with pity, O heavenly Father, upon the people in this land who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death as their constant companions. Have mercy upon us. Help us to eliminate our cruelty to these our neighbors. Strengthen those who spend their lives establishing equal protection of the law and equal opportunities for all. And grant that every one of us may enjoy a fair portion of the riches of this land; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Adapted from Book of Common Prayer, p. 326, #36)

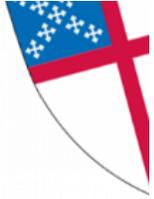
AN EXCERPT FROM THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S STATEMENT WHEN DACA CANCELLED IN 2017

The full statement is on the next page.

FROM: The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings
Presiding Bishop and Primate President, House of Deputies

For those of us who follow Jesus Christ, our Christian values are at stake. Humane and loving care for the stranger, the alien, and the foreigner is considered a sacred duty and moral value for those who would follow the way of God. In his parable of the last judgment, Jesus commended those who welcomed the stranger and condemned those who did not (Matthew 25:35 & 25:43). This teaching of Jesus was based on the law of Moses that tells the people of God: "The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." (Leviticus 19:33-35).

We stand with the DREAMERS and will do all that we can to support them while we also work for the kind of immigration reform that truly reflects the best of our spiritual and moral values as people of faith and as citizens of the United States.



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STANDING WITH AND PRAYING FOR DREAMERS

**Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies respond
to the cancellation of DACA.**

We stand with the Dreamers and will do all that we can to support them.

September 5, 2017

Today our hearts are with those known as the Dreamers—those young women and men who were brought to this country as children, who were raised here and whose primary cultural and country identity is American. We believe that these young people are children of God and deserve a chance to live full lives, free from fear of deportation to countries that they may have never known and whose languages they may not speak. As people of faith, our obligation is first to the most vulnerable, especially to children. In this moment, we are called by God to protect Dreamers from being punished for something they had no agency in doing.

Since 2012, individuals who are undocumented and who were brought to the U.S. as children have benefitted from the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Through this program, those eligible have the opportunity to obtain a work permit and can secure protection from deportation. The nearly 800,000 recipients of DACA have proven that when given the opportunity, they succeed and contribute positively to our country. Without protection afforded by DACA or a legislative solution, these young people will live in fear of arrest, detention, and deportation to countries they may not remember. In six months those fears may become reality, so we must use that time wisely to advocate for their protection.

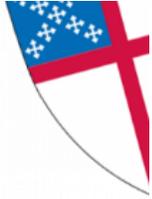
The Episcopal Church supports these undocumented youth as part of our decades-long commitment to walking with immigrants and refugees. Out of that commitment, we call on our nation to live up to its highest ideals and most deeply held values, and we call on Congress to take action to protect these young people and to formulate a comprehensive immigration policy that is moral and consistent and that allows immigrants who want to contribute to this country the chance to do so while keeping our borders secure from those whose business is in drugs, human trafficking or terror. We are committed to working actively toward both the passage of a bipartisan Dream Act by Congress and comprehensive immigration reform, and we will provide resources for Episcopalians who want to participate in this work.

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We stand with the Dreamers and will do all that we can to support them while we also work for the kind of immigration reform that truly reflects the best of our spiritual and moral values as people of faith and as citizens of the United States.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate

The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings
President, House of Deputies



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INFORMATION ABOUT SUPREME COURT DACA HEARINGS
November 12, 2019:

Since the Trump administration announced on **September 5, 2017**, that it was ending Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), several lawsuits have been filed against the administration for terminating DACA unlawfully. As a result, three nationwide injunctions issued by U.S. district courts — in California, New York, and the District of Columbia — have allowed people who have previously had DACA to renew their deferred action.

On **June 28, 2019**, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to review these legal challenges. The Supreme Court will hear oral argument on the cases on **November 12, 2019**. A decision is expected no later than **June 2020**. The Supreme Court did not “stay” any of the lower court orders, which means that DACA recipients who currently have or previously had DACA can continue to submit applications to renew their DACA.

For more detailed information on this case and Episcopal Church policy on immigration, see:

National Immigration Law Center:

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/daca-litigation-timeline/>

The Episcopal Church’s Office of Government Relations:

<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/OGR/migration-refugees-immigration>