

September 14, 2017

Joint Statement Concerning DREAM

We call on the US Congress to consider the DREAM Act of 2017, bipartisan legislation that provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers who graduate from a U.S. high school and attend college, enter the workforce or enlist in the military. It is past time for our government to develop and implement humane comprehensive immigration reform.

We are reminded due to President Trump's recent rescinding of the Deferred Action of Childhood Arrivals (DACA) executive action that a threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Since 2001, Congress has failed to pass the DREAM Act placing young people who crossed the US border with their parents, and thus not under their own volition, in a precarious situation. These young people have only known one country as their homeland and our government has failed them.

Compounding this tragedy is that when given an opportunity by the Obama administration to self-identify and come out of the shadows, nearly 800,000 paid a fee and continued their high school, college or military service. With the implementation of DACA, and according to "Open Letter From Leaders of American Industry" 5 percent started businesses and 16 percent purchased homes. These young people are working and contributing to society. In fact, The Center for American Progress estimates that the Dreamers will contribute nearly half a trillion in economic activity to the US economy over the next decade.

Dreamers represent individuals from all over the world. They are our neighbors, colleagues, classmates and protectors of our liberties in the armed forces. Additionally, we note the impact that the uncertainty of our shared current situation has on the Dreamers and the deep concern extended friends, families and peers have for them. They are our concerns also as their welfare impacts us all.

As a nation, it is clear that we are no longer willing to accept the failed US immigration system. There is no good that can come from destroying families and removing productive members of society. We call on the Indiana delegation of Congress to support the Dreamers and comprehensive immigration reform. We also call on state and local government to execute every power or discretionary authority to protect the Dreamers and our undocumented neighbors.

Signed By:

100 Black Men of Indianapolis
Baptist Ministerial Alliance
Circle City (IN) Chapter of The Links,
Incorporated
Concerned Clergy of Indianapolis
DONT SLEEP
Exchange at the Indianapolis Urban League

Indiana Black Expo
Indiana Black Legislative Caucus
Indianapolis Urban League
Indy Black Chamber of Commerce
Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Alpha
Omega Indianapolis Alumni Chapter

Jack and Jill of America, Inc. Indianapolis
Chapter
National Council of Negro Women,
Indianapolis Section
The Honorable Maggie A. Lewis,
Indianapolis City-County Council President
The Indianapolis Recorder