



CATHOLIC SISTERS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

CATHOLIC SISTERS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL STATEMENT ON TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S INTENT TO END DACA

SEPTEMBER 6, 2017 | PITTSBURGH, PA – As the collective voice of women religious throughout our region, the Catholic Sisters Leadership Council of Western Pennsylvania (CSLC) cannot remain silent in light of the injustice being perpetrated upon one of our country's vulnerable populations. By rescinding the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, the Trump Administration and the Department of Justice are acting in violation of one of the critical moral pillars upon which our country was built.

Each of the 16 religious communities that CSLC represents comes from diverse ethnic backgrounds but had its beginnings in the United States to serve a common purpose – to provide education and spiritual enrichment for immigrant families. That purpose has not changed, as we continue to serve *all* of God's people, including the *poor* in schools, hospitals, social services and parishes.

So as to support those whose voices are not heard, we offer *our* collective voice in favor of legislation to create a foreseeable future for those impacted by the nullification of DACA, some 800,000 people who came to the U.S. as children and know no other home. Rather than incite fear among our country's immigrant population, we strongly urge Congress to pass the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act and provide a path by which these young immigrants who contribute to American society as students, laborers, military members and business owners may achieve citizenship in a country that, itself, was founded by immigrants.

We ask you to join us in prayer for those fearful for their families and their futures as a result of DACA's demise. Likewise, we encourage our friends in the community to contact their members of Congress and urge them to act *now* and support the DREAM Act, as it is simply the right thing to do.

The Catholic Sisters Leadership Council represents 16 communities of women religious who have century-long roots in Western Pennsylvania. We work together to advance the mission of religious communities and promote understanding of women religious, both within our individual congregations and throughout the broader community. In our work and daily lives, we abide by the gospel mandate to welcome the stranger. For more information, please visit www.sistersofwpa.org.

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CATHOLIC SISTERS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL FACT SHEET

The Catholic Sisters Leadership Council (CSLC) represents women religious serving Western Pennsylvania as educators, nurses, social workers, caregivers, councilors, prayer partners and in any way they are called to help those in need. The CSLC's purpose is to advance the mission of religious communities and promote understanding of women religious, both within their individual congregations and throughout the broader community.

CSLC & ASSOCIATED COMMUNITIES

- Benedictine Sisters of Pittsburgh (OSB)
- Felician Sisters of North America (CSSF)
- Ladies of Bethany
- School Sisters of St. Francis (OSF) (Bellevue)
- Sisters of Charity of Nazareth (SCN)
- Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill (SC)
- Sisters of Divine Providence (CDP)
- Sisters of the Divine Redeemer
- Sisters of Mercy New York, Pennsylvania, Pacific West (RSM)
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities (OSF)
- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God (OSF)
- Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden (CSJ)
- Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth (CSFN)
- Sisters of the Holy Spirit (SHS)
- Sisters of the Humility of Mary (HM)
- Sisters of the Order of St. Basil the Great (OSBM)

COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS

Sisters Place (www.sistersplace.org) – A supportive housing community committed to assisting single-parent families who are homeless in southwestern Pennsylvania. Its mission is to assist such families toward self-sufficiency by providing housing and supportive services.

PATH to Justice (www.pathtojusticepgh.com) – A committee of the Catholic Sisters Leadership Council focused on addressing the injustices of human trafficking through advocacy, awareness and education in southwestern Pennsylvania. In 2008, PATH to Justice expanded its focus to include comprehensive immigration reform.