ISSUE: Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Today the Sisters of Charity will join other LCWR communities in ringing the bells of Holy Family Chapel at noon to celebrate the June 18 Supreme Court decision upholding DACA. While SCOTUS allowed DACA to continue, the Administration can still attempt to end DACA at a later date. As a result, DACA immigrant youth are safe for now, but could be at risk for deportation in the future. We must not allow this to happen. Most DACA recipients have spent the majority of their lives in the U.S., many have families, and all of them contribute to American society as taxpayers, consumers, and community members. Additionally, there are 62,000 DACA-eligible healthcare workers involved in the COVID-19 response. The U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Dream and Promise Act, H.R. 6, one year ago. H.R. 6 would give a path to citizenship for Dreamers. Now, in the wake of SCOTUS’ ruling, the U.S. Senate must act in order to protect Dreamers from the risk of deportation and family separation. The USCCB supports the DREAM Act, which includes a path to citizenship, and sent a letter to each Senator asking that they support S. 874, the DREAM Act of 2019. Additionally, USCCB supports efforts to introduce a Senate companion to H.R. 6 as well. As Catholics, we affirm the inherent dignity of every person. As Sisters of Charity and Seton Associates, we are proud of our 160-year history of service to and advocacy for immigrant children. The U.S. Catholic Bishops urge you to express solidarity with Dreamers and ask you to contact your Senators requesting that they support the bipartisan DREAM Act of 2019 and encourage the Senate to introduce a companion bill to H.R.6, the American Dream and Promise Act.

ACTION: Use this link to email your senators to urge passage in the Senate of the Dream Act: https://justiceforimmigrants.org/action-alerts/jfi-action-alert-to-the-u-s-senate-please-protect-daca-recipients/

PRAYER: God of Welcome, you are the creator of all, and so no one is a stranger to you. Look with compassion on those who are refugees, exiles, immigrants – those who find themselves in a new land and among a different people. Grant your compassion also to those young people brought to this country as children. Grant them a home and a place, and give us a kind heart in welcoming them. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.