



October 31, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

I join the call for Congress to swiftly enact legislation that recognizes the God-given dignity and value of Dreamers in our communities. I urge all members of Congress to work together to pass a clean Dream Act (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) to provide a much needed, overdue path to citizenship for young undocumented immigrants, who will soon lose their ability to work and face risk of deportation.

In 1857, Dutch-immigrants founded the Christian Reformed Church in North America (CRCNA). We continue to be an immigrant church, filled with people from around the world. We believe that our diverse community enhances the denomination, making us stronger and showing us a fuller image of God. Scripture reminds us that God often has used the “stranger” or immigrant to bring a blessing. Since the beginning, the CRCNA has witnessed this blessing from God.

Dreamers are integral members of our communities and we share their burden of fear of an uncertain future in the United States, the country they call home. The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program provided a life-changing opportunity for Dreamers to come out of the shadows and flourish-- they became doctors, teachers, engineers, social workers. They are making our communities stronger and there is no better moment than now to officially recognize these aspiring professionals and community members as the Americans they claim to be. We pray alongside Dreamers and their families in our congregations for the passage of a clean Dream Act.

Congress should pass the Dream Act without additional enforcement provisions that would threaten immigrant communities who are still negatively impacted by our broken immigration system. Both sides of the aisle agree we need an enforceable, logical, and humane immigration system-- one which we currently lack. Entangling enforcement with the Dream Act does not bring us closer to this shared goal. A broader immigration reform bill would be a more appropriate place to balance border security with a path to legal status for undocumented immigrants.

For over a decade, the members of the CRCNA have called on Congress to enact a long-term solution for Dreamers and other immigrant communities. Today our message remains the same: Congress must work together to enact legislation that would give Dreamers a pathway to citizenship. The best option for Dreamers and our community remains the Dream Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Timmermans".

Dr. Steven Timmermans
Executive Director