

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

Bethany Christian Services

June 18, 2020

Council for Christian
Colleges and Universities

Dear Members of Congress,

Ethics and Religious
Liberty Commission of the
Southern Baptist
Convention

Today, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the decisions of lower courts, restricting the executive branch from terminating the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. Whatever one thinks about the constitutional arguments, we know that this result is a relief to the many “Dreamers” within our congregations and communities who had faced possibility of losing DACA and, thus, their ability to work and live lawfully in the U.S.

Faith and Community
Empowerment

National Association of
Evangelicals

Despite the high court’s decision, however, we continue to believe that this situation merits a permanent, legislative solution. We urge you to act quickly and on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation to create a pathway for those who arrived in the U.S. as children and who meet other necessary and appropriate qualifications to earn permanent legal status and, eventually, citizenship. [Polls](#) show such pathway legislation is supported by the majority of evangelical Christians as well as the majority of all Americans.

National Latino
Evangelical Coalition

The Wesleyan Church

World Relief

A moment of instability like this one reminds the nation that we must address the larger, longstanding reality of millions of immigrants who are present in the United States unlawfully, most of whom are not directly affected by the Supreme Court’s DACA decision. For individuals who came to the U.S. as adults – either overstaying a visa or crossing a border unlawfully – it would dishonor the law to simply extend amnesty. But it would also be disastrous to families, the U.S. economy, and the very fabric of the American story to deport millions of our neighbors.

A better solution, as thousands of evangelical Christians have affirmed in an Evangelical Call for Restitution-Based Immigration Reform, would be to create a process by which these immigrants could pay a significant fine, then earn the chance to become Lawful Permanent Residents of the United States. These changes could complement improvements to border security and to our legal immigration process to form an orderly, efficient immigration system that honors the law by reflecting American values.

We plead with you to work together toward good faith compromise that would both be compassionate to immigrants and respect the rule of law. As always, we are committed to praying for you and your colleagues, as well as for the



immigrant individuals and families whose lives and livelihoods are directly affected by your deliberations.

Sincerely,

Scott Arbeiter, President, World Relief

Shirley V. Hoogstra, President, Council for Christian Colleges and Universities

Hyepin Im, President & CEO, Faith and Community Empowerment

Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals

Jo Anne Lyon, Ambassador, General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyan Church

Russell Moore, President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Chris Palusky, President & CEO, Bethany Christian Services

Gabriel Salguero, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition