

EVANGELICAL IMMIGRATION table.

Bethany Christian
Services

Council for Christian
Colleges and Universities

Ethics and Religious
Liberty Commission of
the
Southern Baptist
Convention

Faith and Community
Empowerment

National Association of
Evangelicals

National Latino
Evangelical Coalition

World Relief

July 19, 2021

Dear Members of Congress,

Late last week, U.S. District Judge Andrew Hanen issued a decision that once again puts the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program in legal jeopardy. Judge Hanen's decision restricts the Department of Homeland Security from approving new applications for DACA. While the order will not immediately impact the status of the hundreds of thousands of young people who currently rely upon DACA to live and work lawfully in the U.S., it creates new uncertainty and anxiety for these individuals and their families.

As we have in the past – but with new urgency – we write to implore you to provide a permanent, legislative way forward for “Dreamers.” Many of these young men and women are integral members of our local churches and communities. They are students and even faculty on our college, university and seminary campuses. They are a part of the fabric of the United States, and the termination of DACA without a legislative solution would unjustly leave them unable to support themselves and their families and at risk of deportation to countries that, in many cases, they cannot even remember. These Dreamers, who were brought to the U.S. as children, ought not be punished for violations of immigration law they could not consciously commit, and to do so retroactively is unconscionable.

We urge you to act quickly to pass legislation to create a pathway for those who arrived in the U.S. as children, and 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.

Judge Hanen's decision underscores the importance of a permanent solution to these longstanding challenges, which only Congress can provide. We plead with you to work together in good faith to reach consensus – most urgently, for Dreamers, but ultimately for the larger population of undocumented immigrants in our communities.

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,

Evangelical Immigration Table Leaders:

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

Daniel Patterson, Acting President, Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

Chris Palusky, President & CEO, Bethany Christian Services

Gabriel Salguero, President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition