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**STATEMENT FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN C. WESTER**  
**Urgent: We need Catholic voices to support the Dreamers.**  
**Call our New Mexico Senators and Representatives now.**  
**Time is running out for them!**

ALBUQUERQUE – Thursday, February 15, 2018—IMMEDIATE RELEASE— *As Catholics, we believe the dignity of every human being, particularly that of our immigrant and refugee children and youth, must be protected. The sanctity of families must be upheld. The Catholic bishops have long supported undocumented youth brought to the United States by their parents, known as Dreamers, and continue to do so. We ask you to engage with your elected officials to voice your support for these young people and call on your members of Congress to find a bipartisan legislative solution to protect Dreamers immediately. As we move closer to the end of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA, ending March 5, 2018), over 800,000 young people who entered into the U.S. and only know America as their home, may face deportation. Every day, these youth lose their status, and with it, lose their ability to go to school, serve in the military and work legally. Our church stands in solidarity with Dreamers. We celebrate the contributions of refugees and immigrants in our churches, communities and in our country.*

*Congress must pass bipartisan legislation that would provide urgently needed relief for Dreamers.*

1. Dreamers entered the United States through no fault of their own, but rather came to the U.S with their parents as children to seek a better future. They often know America as their only home.
2. These young people are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes.
3. They live out their daily lives with hope and a determination to flourish and contribute to society. They should not be forced to live their lives in constant fear that they will be deported at any moment and separated from their families. If deported, they face real dangers of violence, poverty and family separation in a place they have never known.
4. These undocumented youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our church, and are, by every social and human measure, American youth. It is both our moral duty and in our nation's best interest to protect them and allow them to reach their God-given potential.
5. Congress is now considering this important issue and must act to protect these young people by March 5, 2018. Please call your Senators and Representatives now and say the following (They will be on recess in home offices Friday, February 16 through the following week.):  
“As a constituent, I urge you to stand in support of Dreamers, to publicly support Dreamers and pass a Clean Dream Act. The Dream Act offers qualifying immigrant youth ‘conditional permanent resident status’ and a path to full lawful permanent residency and citizenship. With the recent rescission of the DACA program, now is the time for Congress to work together to protect these exemplary young people. Find a prompt, humane and durable solution.”

Local, in district numbers:

**Senators**

Senator Tom Udall-Albuquerque 505.346.6791, Santa Fe 505.988.6511, Portales 575.356.6811  
Senator Martin Heinrich-Albuquerque 505.346.6601, Santa Fe 505.988.6647

**Representatives**

District 1: Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham-Albuquerque 505.346.6781  
District 2: Representative Steve Pearce-Socorro, Los Lunas offices 855.4.PEARCE (732723)  
District 3: Representative Ben Ray Lujan- Rio Rancho 505.994.0499, Santa Fe 505.984.8950--END