

The Episcopal Church Statement on the House Judiciary Committee Markup of the Dream Act of 2019 and the American Promise Act of 2019

May 22, 2019

The Episcopal Church urges swift action to advance legislation to protect Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders, and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) recipients. In September 2017, Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop and Primate Michael B. Curry and President of the House of Deputies the Rev. Gay Clark Jennings issued a statement concerning the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). They wrote,

For those of us who follow Jesus Christ, our Christian values are at stake. Humane and loving care for the stranger, the alien, and the foreigner is considered a sacred duty and moral value for those who would follow the way of God.

Nearly two years have passed since that statement was released and while our values still hold urgency, hundreds of thousands of persons still live in limbo. As Episcopalians, we believe now is the time for Congress to pass legislation to ensure that Dreamers, and those with TPS and DED, receive a pathway to citizenship. The Episcopal Church holds that families and individuals who are long-time members of our congregations, communities, and local economies deserve an opportunity for stability and a chance to pursue their dreams.