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October 27, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

Grounding our work in the Gospels and Catholic Social Teaching, the Ignatian Solidarity Network is committed to the belief that the dignity of every human being, particularly that of children and youth, must be protected.

With this in mind, we call on each of you to take immediate action to respond to the needs of young people who have been served by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program by enacting the bipartisan Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440).

Through our work in partnership with Catholic schools, parishes, and social ministries across the country, we continue to hear stories of DACA recipients and other undocumented young people enriching their communities. We have witnessed firsthand the contributions that DACA recipients in our Ignatian network make as campus and community leaders. They are successful students, serve in the U.S. military, care for the needs of fellow community members as medical personnel, are leaders in business, law, and education, are mothers and fathers, and much more. These young people want to continue to make our country stronger through their contributions.

In the spiritual tradition of St. Ignatius of Loyola, whom our work is inspired by, the Latin word "magis" describes a desire to do more in order to bring greater good to our own lives and those of others. Passing the the Dream Act of 2017 responds to this invitation, providing young people who have spent many years in the United States with the opportunity to live out their dreams — allowing them to be "more" through their service to their families, their communities, and this nation.

It is with great hope for the future of these young people and our country that we call on you to pass the Dream Act of 2017 without delay.

Sincerely,

Christopher G. Kerr  
 Executive Director

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