

## WWUUC: Becoming A Sanctuary Congregation

**West Wind Unitarian Universalist Church of Norman (WWUU) is considering how and in what form we may provide sanctuary. As a subcommittee of the Social Justice Committee we are continuing to gather information and to seek answers to questions about appropriate policies and actions since our church, as a facility, is unsuitable for physical sanctuary.**

**What can we do *now* to secure and advance the rights of immigrants who may be protected under the DREAM Act and under TPS (Temporary Protected Status)?**

On June 15, 2012, President Obama created a new policy calling for deferred action for certain undocumented young people who came to the U.S. as children. Applications under the program, which is called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA"), began on August 15, 2012.

DACA is a kind of administrative relief from deportation, the purpose of which is to protect from deportation those eligible immigrant youth who came to the United States when they were children. DACA gives young undocumented immigrants: 1) protection from deportation, and 2) a work permit. The DREAM act would allow young immigrants to live, study, and work in the U.S., with a path to citizenship. The program expires after two years, subject to renewal.

### **Temporary Protective Status**

TPS is granted to residents of certain countries that are experiencing disasters from war, famine, hurricanes, etc.

Temporary Protected Status for Hondurans and El Salvadorans who have been in the US since 1999 and 2001, respectively, desire a chance to have a green card and continue their lives in the US. This must be decided this year, six months before TPS expires. These highly productive citizens have made their homes here. They are here legally, but could be sent back.

John Kelly seemed favorable to extending their status, but he is no longer head of Homeland Security.

### ***Please call or write***

U.S. Senators Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) introduced the *bipartisan* DREAM Act of 2017.

1. Call, write, or email your senators and representatives to support the bipartisan bill (Dreamers' Act), to be voted on September 5, 2017, only a couple of weeks from now.
2. Write a letter to the editor of your local paper.
3. Post a personal notice to your Facebook timeline stressing the importance of DACA and the Trump Administration's threat of rescission of the Act, which would likely result in deportation.
4. Encourage your friends to contact their representatives and ask them to vote to continue the Dreamers' Act (DACA).

### **Take note**

Rescinding DACA would render a devastating blow to our nation's economy and nearly 800,000 DREAMers who live, study, and work in the U.S.

DACA recipients are hard-working members of our communities who, with their parents, entered the U.S. illegally. Everyone in the program has passed an extensive background check, paid a fee, and is a student or service member, or has a job.

DREAMers are important to our state and to the economy of the U.S. As a human rights and social justice issue, we have elected to support their cause. The following report gives the number of applicants in Oklahoma and their economic contributions:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1xJu9JxNTLzcmFaVVNFShNndnced> (broken link?)

***Advocate for sanctuary*** with West Wind UU at the annual Peace Fest in Oklahoma City, in November. Please volunteer to help with our informational presentation to the hundreds of Peace Fest attendees.