

November 1, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

We've all had them when we were younger – those dreams of being lost, left behind or sent away. How ironic that the Dreamers now are facing a reality of those bad dreams coming true.

What an honor to realize that you have been elected to office in this great land and therefore have it in your power to save an innocent person from a nightmare reality of being sent away. And you will be saving not just one person, but more than 700,000 young people and restoring their lives so that they may pursue their dreams, the American dream.

The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on you to vote for a clean DREAM Act and we thank the co-sponsors for working together across the aisle to bring back this bill.

America was built by dreamers and continues to be built by dreamers. Hope, belief, persistence and perseverance are in our DNA.

And so it is with the Dreamers. Many had no idea that they are not U.S. citizens. Others have vague memories of accompanying their parents or caregivers on long journeys, not understanding the politics or implications.

These Dreamers are of all colors and shapes and come from all parts of the globe. Yet these young people are American. They are American in their souls, in their attitudes, aspirations and expectations. They power America with their toughness, passion, fortitude, hard work and spirit.

Most Americans want the Dreamers to stay. Now is the time for Congress to wake up and send a unifying and heart-warming message of American idealism to these frightened young people by voting for a clean DREAM Act and demonstrating that they are lost no more.

"Rouse your heart to love, gratitude and generosity," said Saint Mary Euphrasia, Foundress of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd.

<u>The National Advocacy Center</u> educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, victims of human trafficking, victims of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in over 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.