



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER
Rise Up AND Act for Justice

Statement for Submission to

Hearing on Protecting Dreamers and TPS Recipients
House Judiciary Committee
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from

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They are American in all but a piece of paper. They have plans, hopes and expectations, which are on hold with fears that their dreams will become nightmares. And now they are running out of time. These Dreamers, TPS (Temporary Protected Status) and DED (Deferred Enforced Departure) holders are looking to Congress for a permanent, legislative solution allowing them to remain in the United States and continue living their American dreams.

Most Americans believe that their government should have more compassion. As Catholics, our faith requires that everyone should be treated with the utmost dignity and respect. **The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd calls on the United States Congress to pass a pathway to citizenship for all Dreamers and TPS and DED holders.**

Nearly 4,000 Liberians fear losing their safety status and work authorization. Liberia suffered a terrible civil war and was still in the recovery process when Ebola struck. Liberians in the U.S. have received either DED or TPS (Temporary Protected Status) since 1991 through both Republican and Democratic presidents.

Approximately 300,000 people hold temporary protected status in the United States. TPS is granted on rare occasions to people living in the U.S. from countries that have experienced severe natural disasters, war or other extreme conditions. Removing TPS and sending these people back will have devastating multiplying effects on families in both our country and in the recipient countries.

Losing 1.8 million Dreamers plus their families would shock not just them and the countries where they would be sent, but it would shock our economy, states and communities as well. These Dreamers are of all colors and shapes and come from all parts of the globe. Yet they are American. They are American in their souls, in their attitudes, aspirations and expectations. And let's be frank -- we need them. They power America with their toughness, passion, fortitude, hard work and spirit.

These Dreamers, TPS and DED holders have joined and helped build up the American economy. They are integral to our communities. They own homes, go to church, support our schools and neighborhoods, and contribute to the U.S. tax base.

Our government is out of sync with our values when it does not value these people. Our neighbors, friends and co-workers are constantly coming under assault from this Administration because they were born in another country. But isn't that why the United States of America was founded?

The soul of our nation is being tested.

This nation has a long history of welcoming immigrants. Women religious have consistently been on the forefront accompanying and serving immigrant communities. Good Shepherd Sisters remain committed to welcoming and aiding all those in need.

The Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and has dedicated itself to serving poor and marginalized people around the world. The Sisters have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years and are known for their work with survivors of human trafficking and domestic abuse and with women and children living in poverty.

It is wrong to play games with the lives of innocent young people and people who have fled tragedy and devastation. The members of this committee are in a position of power. In America we expect our leaders to lead with compassion and a light hand. We call on you to permanently welcome these people and to legislate a solution and pathway to citizenship.

The National Advocacy Center 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, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.