



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Diocese of Grand Rapids' Office of Communications relays the following statement from Bishop David J. Walkowiak in response to the repeal of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program:

As the President and Vice President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) said in their statement, "The cancellation of the DACA program is reprehensible. It causes unnecessary fear for DACA youth and their families."

"...Our nation has done the opposite of how Scripture calls us to respond. It is a step back from the progress that we need to make as a country. Today's actions represent a heartbreaking moment in our history that shows the absence of mercy and good will, and a short-sighted vision for the future. DACA youth are woven into the fabric of our country and of our Church, and are, by every social and human measure, American youth."

The Diocese of Grand Rapids renews its call to protect immigrants and refugees who have made a home here in West Michigan and we stand ready to assist in any way possible.

I stand firm with my brother bishops in "urging Congress to act and immediately resume work toward a legislative solution." Please join me in praying for the families affected by the decision to repeal DACA.

[Read the full statement from the USCCB here.](#)

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 191,000 Catholics, 81 parishes and 30 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information visit our website www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org. Connect with the diocese on [Facebook](#) (Diocese of Grand Rapids) and [Twitter](#) (@GRDiocese).