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Holy Cross Ministries supports Supreme Court ruling keeping DACA in place

Holy Cross Ministries (HCM) supports the decision the U.S. Supreme Court released Thursday morning that temporarily halts the Department of Homeland Security from ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

HCM welcomes this decision because it protects poor, underserved and marginalized families in Utah, especially women and children. Moreover, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who sponsor HCM, promote actions and policies that protect rights and dignity through access to justice and suitable work. DACA applies only to individuals who came to the U.S. as children – commonly referred to as “Dreamers.” Almost one million initial DACA applications have been submitted since the program began in 2012.

HCM believes DACA is vital because it impacts 200,000 workers employed in essential jobs in the U.S., including the communities we provide services to in Utah. Employers in Utah rely on Dreamers to work in industries such as construction, landscaping, restaurants and other food services. It has been reported that approximately 30,000 DACA recipients currently hold jobs in healthcare – some of whom work in Utah fighting COVID-19.

Recognizing the limited resources accessible to low-income families in Utah, HCM’s Legal Immigration Program assists Dreamers in applying for and renewing DACA applications. Under DACA, HCM’s Legal Immigration Program helps countless Dreamers participate in the community and gain self-sufficiency by working and attending college in Utah.

HCM’s Director of Immigration Programs and Senior Attorney Lorina Tester says, “We have been anxiously waiting for today’s decision. There are currently about 650,000 people working and studying in the U.S. who will be extremely grateful to learn that DACA is not going away anytime soon.”

Holy Cross Ministries (HCM) was founded by the Sisters of the Holy Cross. The Sisters first arrived in the Utah territory in 1875 when they opened a hospital for injured miners. As an expression of their commitment to compassionate service, the Sisters created HCM as a non-profit organization in 1994. HCM's programs provide early childhood education; trauma-informed counseling; bilingual health outreach services and legal immigration assistance, primarily for victims of crime. Recognizing the widespread needs of the underserved in Utah, HCM's programs are provided without regard to an individual's religious affiliation, income, race, ethnicity or any other defining characteristic. To learn more about HCM, please visit hcmutah.org.

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