

Response to Trump and Lawmakers Bipartisan Meeting on DACA and CIR

by Mark Gonzales, Founder and Executive Director, Hispanic Action Network

WASHINGTON D.C, UNITED STATES, January 10, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ --

“We knew this day would eventually come, the day where we would have to pass official legislation to protect the DREAMers. Once again, we are encouraged that President Donald Trump is addressing DACA and that he wants to move forward with [Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#).



We were hopeful that a decision to rescind DACA, back in September of 2017, was not actually a defeat but an opportunity for our leaders to draft and implement a compassionate and pragmatic [immigration](#) policy. We have known that we need proper legislation that will indeed protect our DREAMers as well as a comprehensive immigration policy that will allow immigrants of all ages and our nation to flourish. Today is the day, now is the time.

Both Democrats and Republicans have been playing with the lives of the DREAMers for too long and we say ‘no more.’ We are in Washington D.C. to assist Congress in fixing immigration policy that has plagued our nation for decades, getting it over the finish line – once and for all.

We believe that our President, Congress, and we as Americans should have a heart of compassion towards children, brought to the United States through no fault of their own, who have been inadvertently and adversely affected by our nation’s broken immigration system. Now is the time for real solutions not extensions, delays or false hopes.

We call on President Trump to continue to put action and power behind the truth of his past and present statements, ‘We love the DREAMers’ and ‘We need a bill of love,’ by leading and working with Congress, and even immigration advocates, to create a fair and sensible immigration policy.

As a leading organization on immigration, we will use our voice on Capitol Hill as millions of young immigrants await a permanent legislative solution from our elected officials and even possibly action that encompasses comprehensive immigration reform – something that I refer to as ‘Patriotic Integration (™) – doing what is best for America... first’.

As Christians, [Hispanics](#), and conservatives, we feel we have a unique and important perspective on this issue. We strongly believe our faith and our conservative values call us to support DACA participants and advocate for them to stay in what in many cases is the only country they know. We applaud President Trump’s restraint on DACA thus far and we are encouraged as he continues to reiterate his compassionate sentiment towards the DREAMers, acknowledging that DACA needs to

be dealt with “heart”, and so we urge him in faith and conviction to continue to view DACA recipients with fidelity and compassion, which the Christian faith demands of all believers.

In conclusion, we call on Congress to act quickly, in a bipartisan manner, by drafting legislation that will ensure that our nation has an immigration policy that will not uproot DACA participants from the only country that they have ever known. DREAMers have been a great contribution to our community with 95% either in school or working as nurses who care for patients, teachers who educate students in our classrooms and engineers who build American roads and bridges and those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice serving in our military.

We are hopeful that the many stories of this generation of DREAMers will assist Congress in shaping new legislation on DACA and comprehensive immigration reform and that God’s wisdom will be upon our leaders in Washington D.C. as they mitigate the complexities of our immigration system and construct a sensible and fair immigration policy that will unite and bless our nation for generations upon generations to come.”

Mark Gonzales
Founder and Executive Director
Hispanic Action Network

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The Hispanic Action Network (HAN), founded by Rev. Mark Gonzales, has been a visionary and pioneer in establishing grassroots networks in the prayer and civic action movement. Turning our faith into action, HAN works to see the community of faith engaged in the civic arena and exercising their God given right to vote from a Biblical worldview. HAN seeks to educate, equip, engage and mobilize the Church to be effective in taking a stand and having a voice on a local, state and national level regarding cultural issues impacting the family, church and evangelical community at large.

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