

# *Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) Toolkit*

## **Urge Supreme Court to Delay Decision on DACA Case In Light of COVID-19**

The COVID-19 crisis affects everyone in our communities, including DACA recipients and their families. The U.S. Supreme Court is planning to soon issue a decision in the DACA case that could fundamentally alter their futures in the United States.

But lawyers for *Batalla Vidal, et al., No. 18-589*, one of the DACA cases under consideration at the U.S. Supreme Court, have [filed a letter](#) with asking the Court to consider how the COVID-19 global health pandemic would [impact DACA recipients and their families](#). Now is not the time for another major upheaval in so many people's lives.

In the name of public health and moral and faith-based values, the Interfaith Immigration Coalition [urges](#) the Supreme Court of the United States to delay a decision until it considers the impacts that any decision they make would have on families during the COVID-19 crisis.

### **This toolkit includes**

[Send a Letter to the Editor to Your Local Paper](#)

[Message Guidance](#)

[Promotional Materials](#)

**Send a Letter to the Editor to Your Local Paper**

Head to your computer to write a short letter to the editor. Below are the steps to follow. Contact [media@interfaithimmigration.org](mailto:media@interfaithimmigration.org) for help!

- **Look up your local newspaper online** to find its submission guidelines for letters to the editor. Some will have you email them the letter, others will require you to submit it via an online form. [Google your newspaper name plus "LTE submission" if you can't find it.]
- **Draft the letter.** Keep it short and simple, no more than 250 words. Use the messaging guidance below or the sample letter to the editor. Modify it to suit your voice and perspective.
- **Submit your letter.** Follow the guidelines for your specific paper. Include your full legal name, daytime phone number, and mailing address. They will use this for verification and to contact you if they decide to print your letter.
- **Send us a copy.** Email [media@interfaithimmigration.org](mailto:media@interfaithimmigration.org) when you submit your letter, and also when it is published! We will post your letters on our social media accounts.

## Sample Letter to the Editor (228 words)

If COVID-19 has taught us anything, it is that we are stronger together and we need to look out for each other. I am very worried about an upcoming Supreme Court decision further destabilizing the lives of some members of our community.

The court case concerns the lives of 700,000 young immigrants who grew up in the United States, but only have a temporary immigration status known as DACA. When President Trump announced he was ending this program, DACA recipients and U.S. businesses, schools, and communities challenged him in court. The Supreme Court is set to issue a decision in the coming weeks.

Ending DACA right now would further upend the lives, livelihoods, homes, and stability of 700,000 young immigrants who grew up here, at a time when the entire country is struggling. At least 27,000 DACA recipients are health care and support workers, and many others are working in essential positions that this country relies upon. One of their most important roles, of course, is as parents. Over 250,000 American children have parents with DACA.

Now is not the time to inject more stress and uncertainty into these young families' lives. The Trump administration should extend DACA work permits for two years, and the U.S. Supreme Court should take the time to properly consider its decision in light of the COVID-19 crisis our nation is confronting, together.

## Message Guidance

### Statements

The following statements issued by partner organizations contain useful messaging ideas:

- [Home Is Here](#) Campaign
- [Interfaith Immigration Coalition](#)
- [FWD. US](#) (focused on health care workers)

Below are some additional talking points:

- Our vision for the United States is as a beacon of hope and a place where communities and families can stay together and thrive regardless of where they were born. The current administration does not share this vision, and is putting policies in place that threaten valued members of our communities.
- We are in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis and grave economic collapse. Throwing 700,000 people, many of whom are doctors, nurses, grocery store workers, child care providers, cleaners, business owners, restaurant workers and other first responders, out of work, jeopardizing their health care and putting them into the pipeline for deportation is the last thing we need right now.

- What's more, there are over 250,000 American children whose parents are DACA recipients. Upheaving their parents' lives also upends these childrens' lives, at a time when kids are already' worried and scared.
- Given this, we have two recommendations:
  - The Trump administration should automatically extend DACA work permits for two years.
  - The U.S. Supreme Court should delay issuing a decision in the DACA case until it can adequately consider the ramifications of COVID-19 on our communities. 27,000 DACA recipients themselves are health care and support workers. Now is not the time to inject more stress and uncertainty into these young families' lives.

## Promotional Materials

Spread the word about this Letter to the Editor action and the #Faith4DACA Campaign!

- Post [these graphics](#) on your social media accounts asking others in your network to send their own letters in.
- Share [these graphics](#) to urge everyone to tune in to a very important #Faith4DACA webinar on 3/31/2020.

Find more graphics, videos, and content to share in this [toolkit](#) from the #HomelsHere campaign and United We Dream.