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THOUSANDS OF OHIOANS TELL CONGRESS TO PROTECT YOUNG IMMIGRANTS

The Archdiocese of Cincinnati and the other Roman Catholic dioceses in the State of Ohio, in collaboration with other faith-based and advocacy groups, will wrap-up an advocacy effort in support of young immigrants on Monday, December 18, International Migrants Day.

On Tuesday, December 19, letters from constituents will be delivered to the offices of Congressional delegates in the Archdiocese, asking them to pass the DREAM Act or similar legislation to provide a path to regularize the status of immigrants brought to the United States when they were very young. Over 15,000 individual letters have been sent to Congress through this campaign, well beyond the original goal. The delivery of letters will begin with a short press conference, involving DREAMers and faith community representatives, outside Senator Rob Portman's office building (312 Walnut St., Cincinnati) at 9:00 a.m.

The effort is part of a two-year, worldwide "Share the Journey" campaign launched by Pope Francis on September 27, inviting all to share the difficult journey of migrants and refugees through prayer and support.

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the many churches, schools, faith

communities, advocacy groups, and other people of goodwill who united in support of DREAMers,” said the Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr, Archbishop of Cincinnati and Chair of the Catholic Conference of Ohio.

“We are deeply concerned by the many years of failure by Congress, whether controlled by Democrats or by Republicans, to address the plight of immigrants who were brought to the United States as children in the arms of their parents and who have no legal means to regularize their status. With such an outpouring of support from thousands of Ohioans, we urge Congress to finally provide a solution to this crisis and a path to citizenship for DREAMers.”

Ongoing opportunities for education and service to migrants and refugees exist through Catholic Charities Southwestern Ohio at (513) 241-7745 or <https://ccswoh.org/> and Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley at (937) 498-4593 or <http://www.cssmv.org/>.

For more information, or to learn about other upcoming events, please contact the Archdiocese of Cincinnati’s Catholic Social Action Office at (513) 421-3131, ext. 2660, or csa@catholiccincinnati.org.

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is the 44th largest Catholic diocese in the country, with more than 450,000 Catholics, and has the sixth largest network of Catholic schools in terms of enrollment. The 19-county territory includes 211 parishes and 111 Catholic primary and secondary schools.