February 12, 2018

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

As you begin to consider legislation that will address the situation of Dreamers – youth brought to the United States as children without immigration status - I write on behalf of Catholic Charities USA (CCUSA) urging you to support a just and compassionate solution.

CCUSA joins in solidarity with the principles articulated by Bishop Joe Vazquez, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration in his letter of February 9, 2018, urging you to support a solution which: (1) provides protection for the whole Dreamer population, (2) provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, (3) promotes and protects a family-based immigration system (4) protects vulnerable individuals seeking refuge and (5) promotes humane and proportionate border security measures.

Throughout their long history, Catholic Charities ministries across the United States have worked to protect and uphold the dignity of all people. In the ministries’ early days, these efforts responded to the needs of immigrant communities coming to the United States, largely from Europe. Today, Catholic Charities agencies continue to protect and stand in solidarity with immigrants coming from Latin America and other regions of the world. Through this work, Catholic Charities agencies have not only seen the challenges faced by newcomers to our country, but have also seen the incredible contributions immigrants have made and continue to make in our country. At the heart of these efforts, is the incredible role families play in advancing economic security, promoting integration and providing the necessary social support for newcomers to our country.

As you consider amendments in the coming days and weeks, CCUSA urges you to remember the shared history of so many in this country as migrants. We urge you to work for a compassionate solution, which protects human dignity, defends the family and fosters a more just and compassionate community.

Sincerely,

Sister Donna Markham OP, PhD
President and CEO
Catholic Charities USA