

AMMPARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities

Recent efforts to change immigration policies include ending important programs that serve to protect vulnerable children and families.

These terminated programs include:

- **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)**, which protected young Americans without legal status, also known as Dreamers; and
- **Temporary Protected Status (TPS)** for Haitians, Nicaraguans and Sudanese people. TPS is a legal immigration status that allows citizens from other countries who are present in the U.S. during a catastrophe in their country to remain in the U.S. until it is safe to return home. TPS status for Hondurans and Salvadorans is also at risk.
- **Central American Minors Program (CAM)** allowed Central American children with a legally present parent in the U.S. to apply for refugee or other protection in their country of origin.

Additional proposed policy changes would remove trafficking protections for children who seek safety in the U.S., change our asylum system, and actively tear apart families.

In your own words, tell your Member of Congress why this issue is important to you!

Talking points for your letter to Congress:

- As a Christians, I know that Jesus is present among the most vulnerable. Policies that harm these families do not honor our values.
- No one should have to choose between their own future and the safety of their family, friends or community. Young Americans without legal status should have protection without provisions that harm other migrants
- Migrants are not security threats; They are our brothers and sisters who are worthy of love and care.

Dear _____,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I am deeply concerned by changes in immigration policy that criminalize migrants, separate families, and put people at risk. I urge you to:

- Pass legislation that protects Dreamers and TPS holders from deportation without harmful measures for other migrants before the end of the year;
- Reject immigration policies that weaken our asylum system or take away trafficking protections for children; and
- Support robust funding for programs that address the root causes of migration, including poverty, lack of opportunities, and environmental issues.

I pray for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,

Name: _____

Church: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

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"Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza," ("God is our refuge and strength,") – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future. AMMPARO seeks to provide a whole church response that will:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America's Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation as a whole context and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God's children.

Visit ELCA.org/AMMPARO to learn more.

To find out more ways to advocate for justice for migrant children and families, visit ELCA.org/advocacy.

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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.