

August 30, 2011

TO: Pastors of Arizona churches

FROM: CADENA (an Arizona organization, working for the DREAM ACT)

RE: DREAM SABBATH (September 16 to October 9, 2011)

You may be interested in providing your congregation with some emphasis on the DREAM ACT, in coordination with the DREAM SABBATH, a nation-wide observance planned by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and Senator Dick Durbin. Suggested dates are September 16 through October 9, 2011.

The DREAM ACT is a bill now in Congress that would allow undocumented students the freedom to work and study without fear. These students are high school graduates, who were brought to the United States as little children. They do not have US birth certificates, so they cannot get a Social Security number. They cannot work, and they have no money for college. They exist in limbo and in fear of deportation at any time.

For Senator Dick Durbin, this has become a serious injustice to keep capable youth from becoming a contributing part of our society. For him, this is a religious issue, so he is asking the churches to study the DREAM ACT and help him get it passed in Congress.

For those of us in Arizona, who have become advocates for the DREAM ACT, this has become a very personal issue. We know these capable amazing students who have the ability and the desire to become contributing citizens of Arizona and the US. We grieve each time the DREAM ACT fails in Congress, so we too are turning to the churches for support for the DREAM ACT.

I am attaching the following:

1. A paragraph for your church bulletin
2. A page that could be a bulletin insert or a page in your newsletter (WHAT IS THE DREAM ACT)
3. Stories of DREAMERS that could provide a "minute for mission"
4. Suggestions for evening programs or Sunday School classes or meetings of women of the church –
5. List of resources with further information on the DREAM ACT
6. List of actions and projects in support of the DREAM ACT

If you have any questions or suggestions or need speakers, please call Genie Zavaleta at (480) 966-8002 or Carmen Cornejo at (480) 324-6378