



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

North Texas Annual Conference
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W. EARL BLEDSOE
Resident Bishop

JOELL STANISLAUS
Executive Assistant

December 13, 2010

The Honorable Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4304

Dear Senator Hutchinson:

I believe there is great urgency in passing the DREAM Act now. Key military, business and educational leaders agree that the DREAM Act would be highly beneficial for our communities, states and country.

There are young people in our communities who were brought to the U.S. as young children. They have known no other home than the United States. These young people possess gifts which will strengthen our country and our economy.

I know that God sees each person as a beloved child of God. As a United Methodist Bishop, I have seen the amazing gifts young people from different countries bring in our midst. During a recent trip to the border in El Paso, my Cabinet and I saw firsthand the need to pass the DREAM Act.

Passage of the DREAM Act will affect the status of many members of The United Methodist Church in North Texas. It is time for us to do the right thing and pass a bill which will provide hope for them and also strengthen our own communities.

I want to share one story in particular with you. A young man who is a member of one our churches, Cristian Ramirez, came to the U.S. from El Salvador to live with his father at 10 years of age. He was sent to the U.S. by his mother because Cristian was being recruited by the deadly MS13 gang. Cristian graduated from R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton, where he was on the wrestling team. He is currently a student in good standing at Brookhaven College. His dream is to become a Texas State Trooper.

He is the volunteer youth director at La Fundicion de Cristo United Methodist Church. He has a gift of leadership and has been working hard to keep the youth in our neighborhood in school, away from gangs, off drugs, and connected with God.

Cristian was pulled over for an expired inspection sticker and now has a deportation order against him to send him far away from his family, to a place he has not been since he was a child. All legal avenues have been exhausted in an effort to gain asylum. The DREAM Act is his only hope of staying with his family and our hope of keeping him connected with at-risk youth in our community.

I have valued the way you have allowed your faith to lead you as our public servant. I am counting on you to make the DREAM Act a reality for the many young people in our country who contribute greatly to our churches, schools and communities. I am asking you to vote your conscience and support the DREAM Act.

Sincerely,

Bishop W. Earl Bledsoe
Dallas Area