



DREAM SABBATH 2011 TOOLKIT (adapted for Minnesota, Christian community version, based on Interfaith Immigration Coalition toolkit)

CONTENTS – this packet includes background, Minnesota Student Stories, information and materials appropriate for your faith community, sample press release.

Partial list of Organizations Supporting the DREAM Act

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
Justice and Witness Ministries United Church of Christ
United Methodist Board of Church and Society
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB)
National Association of Evangelicals
The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
Muslim Public Affairs Council
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Office of Immigration Issues - Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
United We Dream

For more information on faith organizations and their support of immigration reform,
Interfaith Immigration Coalition - <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

The Advocates for Human Rights Immigration website:
<http://www.energyofanation.org/>

The “Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act)” gives undocumented students a chance to earn legal status if they came here as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing.

Dream Act Sabbath

Between Sept. 16 and Oct. 9 (OR on a day that fits your community and its plans), lift up the lives of DREAM students in the prayers, readings, reflection and education during at least one community gathering.

But - We Already Have Plans.

That's okay, this is flexible: do something that does not detract from your existing plans, or select a day before or after this date range. Even if plans or other themes are already in place, there are many small or appropriate ways to participate: announcements, prayers, information sheets, etc.

How to Get Involved

Sign-up here, <http://miniurl.com/123014> OR send an email to Rev. John Guttermann, intpasj@me.com. ***Sign-up is important*** – numbers of participants matter; we need evidence of as much support as possible. **This is a national campaign.**

Every community's DREAM Sabbath celebration will look different

Get the complete DREAM Act Toolkit here (in either word or pdf):

<http://miniurl.com/123015>

Participate by:

- Reading DREAM Act student stories
- Use stories in a homily – sermon – presentation,
- Create an announcement sheet / bulletin insert to educate your community,
- Show Papers: Stories of Undocumented Youth. Full version is 88 minutes; can adapt to 63 minutes. Learn more at, http://www.papersthemovie.com/about_papers/trailer.html For more information, email John Guttermann, intpasj@me.com or call 651 485-3104.

Why now?

In many ways, momentum is building! Keep the DREAM moving forward, building more and more support for the DREAM Act until it passes. Stand with the DREAMers – let them know they are not alone.

Background - DREAM Act

Each year, approximately 65,000 high school graduates are prevented from attending college or working legally due to their undocumented immigration status. Our immigration law currently has no mechanism to consider their special circumstances, and even if they leave the U.S. in an effort to enter legally, they are barred from re-entry for up to 10 years since they have been here in an undocumented status. **The DREAM Act (Development Relief & Education for Alien Minors Act) will allow upstanding high school graduates who were brought to the United States as children years ago to obtain a temporary visa so they could attend school, travel,**

and work legally. After 10 years, they could apply for a green card (lawful permanent residency), and eventually apply for citizenship. To qualify for the temporary visa, students would have to prove they are under 30 years old; were brought to the United States before they were 16; have been here for at least five years; have graduated from High School; and have a criminal-free record and good moral conduct. Then, they would have to complete two years of college, trade school, or military service to then adjust their status to lawful permanent residency and pursue a pathway to citizenship.

Core “talking points”

- The DREAM Act has received significant bipartisan support in the past – this is a *nonpartisan* issue: both Democrats and Republicans need to stand on the side of compassion and give these young people the opportunity to pursue the American dream.
- We ought to give talented, upstanding, hardworking youth the opportunity to serve their country in the military or contribute to their country through higher education.
- Our nation is losing precious talent every year as these young people face insurmountable barriers to education and employment.
- These children and young people are *culturally American*.

On May 11, 2011, the DREAM Act was introduced in the 112th Congress by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) as S.952 (with Minnesota Senators Klobuchar and Franken as co-sponsors) and in the House by Howard Berman (D-CA), as H.R.1842 (Representative Keith Ellison [MN-5] is a co-sponsor).

Action Item: Defer Deportation of DREAMers

We are called to respond to a time of crisis for DREAM students and their families. **Deportations, including deportations of DREAM-eligible youth and young adults, are continuing in unprecedented numbers. Under current law, President Obama has the discretion, granted him by Congress, to provide deferred action, deferred enforced departure, parole in place, temporary protected status, etc. to individuals or groups who are not security threats to the United States.**

Contact President Obama

Ask President Obama to defer deportation of DREAM Act eligible students.

White House telephone numbers: Comments: 202-456-1111; Switchboard: 202-456-1414. FAX: 202-456-2461. To sign a petition follow this link: <http://bit.ly/fGgW8j>

Contact Minnesota’s Senators

- **Thank** Senator Franken for sending President Obama a letter supporting deferral of deportation for DREAM Act eligible student (he joins 22 other Senators who have sent a similar letter). Ask to know the President’s response. **Ask** Senator Franken what he is going to do next to insure that these students are protected. DC office, 202-224-5641; St. Paul office, (651) 221-1016; St. Cloud office, (320) 251-2721; NW Mobile Office, (218) 230-9487; Duluth office, (218) 722-2390; St. Peter office, (507) 931-5813

- **Thank** Senator Klobuchar for being a co-sponsor of the DREAM Act.
Ask Senator Klobuchar to contact President Obama and urge him to defer deportation of all DREAM Act eligible students, something that 23 of her Senate colleagues have done: DC office, 202-224-3244; Metro office, 612-727-5220; Rochester office, 507-288-5321; Moorhead office, 218-287-2219; Northeast MN office, 218-741-9690.

SAMPLE - Lectionary Texts for Protestant and Catholic - more are available in the full Dream Act Sabbath took kit: http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/sabbath_packet.pdf

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2011

Reading I: Exodus 16:2-15 or Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

- Roman Catholic: **Isaiah 55:6-9**
- United Methodist & ELCIC: **Exodus 16:2-15**

Reading II: Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 145:1-8

- Roman Catholic: **Psalm 145:2-18**
- United Methodist: **Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45 or Psalm 78**

Reading III: Philippians 1:21-30

DREAM Sabbath Themes

*The stories we hear in Exodus, Jonah, and the Gospel reading for this day all point to a kind of justice that ranges far outside our understandings of retributive justice. God’s justice does not merely consist of deserved compensation—either “deserved” punishment or reward—but is shaped by mercy and generosity, and is not limited by human tribal or national boundaries. Our sense of fairness and justice, in turn, should not be colored by envy or feelings of entitlement, but will be shaped by mercy and generosity, if it is of God.

*”The last shall be first and the first shall be last” (Matthew 20:16). The alienated immigrant, the hungry stranger, the parentless child – all these are considered “last” to the world and “first” to Christ. We should treat them according to these truths.

*In light of these readings, what kind of justice do you think God desires for DREAM students and their families?

Sermon Resources on Immigration, A Project by Sojourners:

http://faithandimmigration.org/sites/default/files/tmp/080402_Serman_Booklet.pdf

Sample ‘thought’ for reflection, sharing, or as a prayer petition:

For Minnesota’s DREAM act eligible students, that they may find hope in our concern for justice and for the DREAM Act, and feel the warmth of our love.

MINNESOTA DREAMers TELL THEIR STORIES

**To protect the students, names, minor details,
and place names have been changed.**

All stories are true.

**Edited and adapted for length. Full version available on request (call 651 485-3104, or
email intpasj@me.com).**

5 condensed stories

GILBERTO'S STORY

Today I am student body leader at a school of higher learning in Minnesota, but I was once a high school dropout because I thought a higher education was not a possibility for me. I am now in the final year of my program and even though I am undocumented, I have remained committed to my community and my new country: I am a role model for many other young immigrant students, including U.S. citizen youth like my siblings. I often speak to parents, students, and educators about college, and I hope one day to help increase the number of students who go to college. I am very passionate about education and about my country—I think of the United States as my country. However, without the DREAM Act, my dreams will never become a reality. Thus, I ask Congress to please pass the DREAM Act, so that so many young people like me can give back to this country we call home.

OCTAVIO'S STORY

When Octavio arrived in Minnesota with his family, he was in middle school student with dreams of being in the air force. As a ninth grader, he became a courageous leader to support the Dream Act, speaking out in high school and testifying before the Minnesota legislature. He was one of the brightest students in his grade, but when graduation came, he had no funds to attend college. Conservative Republican leaders from his Church community in his small Minnesota town decided to sponsor his college education. As a result of his college success, large Minnesota companies have recruited him, but he is unable to take the jobs they offer him. When he completes his education, he will not be able to legally work and he is unable to become a legal resident. He needs the Dream Act so that he can continue to contribute to Minnesota's economy and community.

ALANO'S STORY

My name is Alano and I am a DREAM Act student. I came to the United States on a tourist visa from South America when I was 9 years old, and have resided here ever since. I graduated from a St. Paul-Minneapolis metropolitan area high school in 2008. My life was typical “all-

American.” I ran track and cross-country. I attended the football games. I was proud of the city where I lived, proud of my community, and most importantly, everything I did made me feel more like an American. My college experience has been a tremendous challenge, with many achievements, disappointments, and struggles. However, I know that a higher education is something worth fighting for. In fact, since I could not get a driver’s license, I took a two-hour bus ride everyday to get to class, even though I lived 15 minutes away. My dream came true this fall as I got admitted to a major university’s College of Science and Engineering. Without the DREAM Act, I am struggling to pay for even one class each semester and I am left with an uncertain future. I and thousands of other hard working students will benefit from the DREAM Act.

DESIDERIA’S STORY

My name is Desideria. I am from Mexico. I came to the USA when I was 13 years old. I went to middle school in Minnesota and graduated from high school in 2006. Since then I have been hoping for the DREAM Act to pass. Now it is the time for the DREAM ACT to pass, because it will help me continue with my education so that my biggest dream to organize youth centers for runaway youths can come true. The DREAM Act will also help my brother to go back to college and many other young students.

ALICIA’S STORY

When I was thirteen, my family left Mexico to find a better life due to the economic hardships we faced there. I had to learn a new language, a new culture and be able to survive to culture shock because I wanted to get a higher education. I graduated with a 3.5 GPA. I was part of the National Honor Society for being one of the best students in my city school in the year of 2004. I was admitted to one of the top private colleges in Minnesota to continue my education there. However, because I was not eligible for Financial Aid when my scholarship ended, I was not able to continue my education. The DREAM act will give me the tools to be able to have a job and allow me to fully contribute to this society. I need the DREAM Act to pass now. I only ask for the opportunity to work hard for this country, and I know that by pursuing a higher education with the benefit of being a citizen will open many doors in my life. Please help me and others accomplish our goals by supporting our dreams. We will really appreciate it. Remember, it is not only my dream; it is my younger brother’s dream, and the dream of millions of college students.

**Information Sheet / Bulletin Insert
(next page)**

SUPPORT THE DREAMERS

Thousands of hard working young people who were brought to the United States as infants or children can now be locked up in federal detention centers and deported to a country they've never known.

The DREAM Act gives students who have grown up and graduated high school in the United States the opportunity to earn legal status through higher education or military service.

President Obama also has the executive authority to protect vulnerable populations including DREAM Act eligible students from unwarranted detention and deportation by deferring deportation of DREAM Act eligible students (supported by 23 United States Senators).

Take Part in DREAM Sabbath Events

Put your beliefs into action: support DREAMers!

- Plan a vigil or public event in support of our DREAM students and youth
- Incorporate prayers, homilies, and testimonies in support of DREAMers into your congregation's worship, newsletters, announcements, calendars, etc.
- Call, write or e-mail President Obama and ask him to protect DREAM Act eligible students and youth from detention and deportation.



*DREAMers want to serve our country and live the American dream.
You can help!*

Sample Press Release
Includes faith leader quotes that can be inserted.

Rev. John Guttermann
Cell / text: 651 485-3104
intpasj@me.com

The Advocates for Human Rights - Volunteer Liaison to Faith Communities
Check us out, sign up for action alerts: <http://www.energyofanation.org/>

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) - Immigration and Policy Advocate; Immigrant Detainee Visitation lead

Member: Detention Watch Network

Sample - DREAM ACT SABBATH release – article: permission to adapt and use for your publications

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition with support from United We Dream and Minnesota’s Interfaith Immigration Coalition (ICOM) is organizing the DREAM Act Sabbath. The effort will enlist Minnesota’s churches, synagogues, and mosques in hosting conversations and presentations about the “Development, Relief & Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act– a narrowly tailored bill that will give undocumented students a chance to earn legal status if they came here as children, are long-term U.S. residents, have good moral character, and complete two years of college or military service in good standing.

The observance is Sept. 16 to Oct. 9 (or on a day that best fits the needs and schedule of the specific community and its plans). Faith communities are asked to lift up the lives of DREAM students in prayers, readings, reflection and education during a community gathering or in a newsletter or other announcement.

[Insert a personal statement here, or select a statement from among the quotes from faith community leaders below.]

On May 11, 2011, the DREAM Act was introduced in the 112th Congress by Senator Richard Durbin (D-IL) as S.952 (with Minnesota Senators Amy Klobuchar and Al Franken as co-sponsors) and in the House by Howard Berman (D-CA), as H.R.1842 (Representative Keith Ellison [MN-5] is a co-sponsor). Senator Durbin first introduced this legislation ten years ago.

The Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) has adapted the DREAM Act Sabbath national packet in versions appropriate in Islamic, Jewish, and Christian communities. To get a packet, send an email to Rev. John Guttermann, intpasj@me.com. To get the complete DREAM Act Toolkit (in either word or pdf): <http://miniurl.com/123015>

###

* * * * *

Partial list of Organizations Supporting DREAM Act / DREAM Act Sabbath

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services
Justice and Witness Ministries United Church of Christ
United Methodist Board of Church and Society
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB)
National Association of Evangelicals
The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)
Muslim Public Affairs Council
National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference
Office of Immigration Issues - Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society
United We Dream

RELIGIOUS LEADER STATEMENTS – NEWS ARTICLES REGARDING DREAM ACT SABBATH (unless noted otherwise, source - <http://durbin.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0d0bee59-3ae9-422a-a4f0-149837e106b6>)

Gideon Aronoff, President & CEO, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (Source, HIAS Letter to Senator Durbin)

supports this legislation because it is sensible and humane and responds to the needs of vulnerable young immigrant students and the communities in which they live.”

Reverend Derrick Harkins, Senior Pastor of the Nineteenth Street Baptist Church in

Washington said: “It's short-sighted and wrong-headed to say that young people who have done nothing wrong and want nothing more than to be hardworking contributors to the country they call home shouldn't get that opportunity. The best of America's hope and promise lies in instilling in young people the faith that their studiousness and sacrifice will lead to a better future not only for themselves, but also for the nation. The DREAM Act is a moral priority of national importance that every Member of Congress should support. If we fail in this, we fall short of the American dream.”

Rabbi Lisa Grushcow, Associate Rabbi at Congregation Rodeph Shalom in New York City

said: “Judaism teaches us to love the stranger, but in this case the more relevant command is to love our neighbor. The young people who would benefit from the DREAM Act are our neighbors. My own Jewish immigrant ancestors saw America as the goldene medineh, the golden land. They knew that higher education was the key to getting the most America had to offer, and giving back in return. How can we close those doors to this next generation, who are in search of the American dream?”

Sister Simone Cambell, SSS, Executive Director, NETWORK, said: “Passage of the DREAM Act would be one step toward building up our nation by fully integrating young people into our society. These young people only know the US as their home and are committed to making our democracy work. It is the right civic action to take, but it is also the right faith action.”

Dr. Fred Kniss, Provost, Eastern Mennonite University, said: “As a private faith-based university, Eastern Mennonite University stands ready to invest its own institutional financial aid funds in developing the knowledge and skills of our gifted immigrant students, regardless of

their documentation status. Without passage of the DREAM Act, American society is unable to reap the benefits of our investment. This is a great economic and social loss for our region and for society as a whole.”

Rabbi Doug Heifetz, Oseh Shalom Congregation, Laurel, Maryland, said: “Jews start every Passover seder by reading the biblical verse: ‘My father was a wandering Aramean’ (Deuteronomy 26:1). The verse reminds us of our own origins as strangers and immigrants, who arrived in this country perhaps unwelcome and afraid. However, the verse speaks only in the past tense. It thus also suggests us that each progressive generation must receive the opportunity to become better integrated and to belong more fully. The DREAM Act will allow young people who grew up here--who violated no laws in doing so--to realize their place as productive citizens, students, soldiers, working people and entrepreneurs who share a stake in America.”

The Rev. Richard Graham, Bishop, Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, said: “Last year I joined Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and Lutheran leaders to urge Congress to pass the DREAM Act.

Fr. Jacek Orzechowski, O.F.M., Franciscan Friar of the Holy Name Province, said: “The DREAM Act is a moral test for our nation. How are we going to act towards the talented young men and women among us who want to develop their God’s given talents, pursue their dreams, and contribute to our society? Will we act with fear and malice, or with love and justice? The Bible is clear: when we are deaf to the cries of the poor, when we deny others their human rights, when we build walls rather than bridges, we fail God. One of the letters in the New Testament offers an important advice – not only for the people who lived 2,000 years ago, but also to us. It says: ‘Welcome and care for the stranger in your midst, for in doing so, you may be entertaining angels.’ (Heb. 13:2) As followers of St. Francis of Assisi we wholeheartedly support the DREAM Act, which embodies the values of Christ and St. Francis.”

Islamic Society of North America Joins Interfaith Partners to Support DREAM Act –

(Source: <http://www.isna.net/articles/Press-Releases/ISNA-Joins-Interfaith-Partners-to-Support-DREAM-Act.aspx>)

Earlier today the Islamic Society of North America (ISNA), the Muslim Public Affairs Council (MPAC), Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL), and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition announced their renewed support at a press conference for the passage of the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors (DREAM) Act.

DREAM Act Sabbath – Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services BLOG

July 13th, 2011 (Source: <http://www.lirsblog.org/2011/07/13/dream-act-sabbath/>)

Yesterday, The Rev. Richard H. Graham, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Metropolitan Washington, D.C. Synod, joined Assistant Senate Majority Leader Dick Durbin (D-IL) and other faith leaders to announce the DREAM Sabbath.

For more information on faith organizations and their support of immigration reform, Interfaith Immigration Coalition - <http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/>

Edited and adapted for Minnesota by

Rev. John Guttermann

Cell / text: 651 485-3104

intpasj@me.com

The Advocates for Human Rights - Volunteer Liaison to Faith Communities

Check us out, sign up for action alerts: <http://www.energyofanation.org/>

Interfaith Coalition on Immigration (ICOM) - Immigration and Policy Advocate; Immigrant
Detainee Visitation lead

Member: Detention Watch Network

The full original packet in both word and pdf versions is at
<http://www.interfaithimmigration.org/index.php/2011/07/01/dream-sabbath-launch/>