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**STATEMENT OF ARCHBISHOP CHAPUT REGARDING THREAT TO
THE DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS
(DACA) PROGRAM**

"Part of being pro-life and pro-religious freedom -- both of them vital issues that need our strong support -- is a willingness to look *past* these specific struggles to the dignity of the whole person. It's one thing to tighten the security of our borders and to deport violent criminals here illegally. It's a different and much uglier thing to punish young people who've grown up in the United States as their home, but whose parents entered the country with them illegally.

The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program covers more than 800,000 non-citizen young people, protecting them from deportation and allowing them to work in the United States legally. It's a humane, just and sensible recognition of the facts: Most of these young people have nowhere else to go, and no other home than the United States.

The White House has the power to end DACA. It has threatened to do so as early as today. This would be a drastic mistake. It can only make our complicated immigration issues worse. It will poison our national debates and damage the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people who pose no threat to anyone.

I ask the people of the Archdiocese to press their federal lawmakers to find a positive legislative replacement for DACA, and to prevent the deportation of these young people."

*+Charles J. Chaput, O.F.M. Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia*

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