



October 11, 2017

Cardinal Timothy Dolan  
Archbishop of New York  
Archdiocese of New York  
1011 1st Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

Dear Cardinal Dolan:

We are writing to express deep concern regarding your invitation of Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan to be the keynote speaker at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation children's charity dinner in New York City on October 19th. This invitation comes at a time when Speaker Ryan has refused to stand up for immigrant youth under attack by Donald Trump's termination of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, despite the existence of a bipartisan legislative solution, the DREAM Act, which would safeguard their futures.

Throughout this year, Speaker Ryan has refused to meet with immigrant constituents who have invited him to town hall meetings, prayed at his church, and even gone on hunger strike to urge him to speak out in support of immigrant youth. Immigrant youth from his district in Wisconsin, here in New York, and across the country are asking him to bring a clean DREAM Act—one that creates a path to citizenship for young immigrants without furthering Trump's deportation efforts—to the House floor.

An elected official who refuses to meet with immigrant youth from his own district should not be the keynote speaker at a Catholic children's charity event. We urge you to ask Speaker Ryan to act on his faith, meet with immigrant youth from Wisconsin and New York, and allow a vote on the clean DREAM Act bill.

If Speaker Ryan refuses to take these steps, we urge you to rescind his invitation.

Sincerely,

Javier H. Valdés  
Co-Executive Director  
Make the Road New York

Christine Neumann-Ortiz  
Executive Director  
Voces de la Frontera (Wisconsin)