

# Catholic Day of Action With Dreamers

## February 27<sup>th</sup> Non-Violent Civil Disobedience Guide

Thank you for considering risking arrest in an act of non-violent civil disobedience in solidarity with Dreamers. As the March 5th deadline for the termination of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), approaches, the Catholic community in the U.S. is coming together to demonstrate our unending commitment to secure a compassionate legislative response that protects young immigrants and does not harm their families.

Participants will include Catholic Dreamers, Catholic clergy and women religious, Catholic lay leaders and a wide range of supporters. Several Catholic bishops have also been invited to attend. The event will include prayer and singing among 100-200 participants, and will culminate in prayerful, peaceful civil disobedience which will be exercised by a cohort of Catholic leaders.

### **Pledge of Nonviolence**

By participating in civil disobedience on the Catholic Day of Action with Dreamers you pledge to a set of nonviolent guidelines that will be outlined by the attorney and organizers at a webinar training on Thursday, February 22nd and on the morning of February 27th.

### **Why Risk Arrest?**

After months of meeting with members of Congress in D.C. and in districts, holding rallies, press conferences and nonviolent actions calling on Congress to pass a clean Dream Act, we are rapidly approaching March 5th without a legislative solution in sight. Catholics are joining in an act of prophetic witness as an act of solidarity with young immigrants to call on Congress to do what is right and pass the Dream Act. The civil disobedience on February 27th, is one tactic among many that Catholics will continue to engage in until justice for immigrants is achieved.

### **Timeline of the Day's Events for Tuesday, February 27th, 2018**

- 10:00 a.m. Registration for Nonviolent Action participants. Sign in, review and sign your Non Violence Pledge, and turn in any extra belongings for safekeeping, and collect armband
- 10:30 a.m. Gather and prepare to process to Capitol Hill
- 11:00 a.m. Nonviolent Action

### **Am I ready to be arrested?**

Can you answer "YES" to the following questions?

1. Are you in reasonably good physical and mental health?
2. Can you set aside 7 hours on February 27th, 2018
3. Can you follow a plan and agree to comply with the organizers requests and to be completely non-violent?
4. Do you have a state issued ID?, (or if you are not a US Citizen, consult with one of our legal experts prior to engaging in the action?)

If the answer is YES, we would love for you to join us in Washington, DC. Please take an additional 10 minutes and complete the [Feb 27 Participant Information Form](#)

### **What to Expect:**

Generally, Capitol police will offer participants in civil disobedience on Capitol Hill in certain public locations, an option known as “post and forfeit,” that consists of being arrested, detained and processed at Capitol police headquarters, paying a \$50 fine and it does not result in a criminal record. There will be a record of the arrest, but you will not be convicted of a crime. The arrest is for not moving or ceasing to protest after being asked by Capitol Police, and is generally a misdemeanor charge,” according to D.C. code.

**\*\*It is important to know that we cannot guarantee that the US Capitol police will offer a post and forfeit, but we do expect it if you follow the non-violence guidelines and the directions of your organizers. \*\***

**We will have an attorney on site during the action and legal support at the Capitol police headquarters. Following the instructions of the organizers, marshalls, and attorney will be critical to a smooth process.**

### **Preparation:**

- Dress comfortably and wear comfortable shoes.
- Do not wear jewelry. The more jewelry (and personal items) you carry on your person, the longer it will take to process you once you are taken into custody.
- Do bring some cash and ID. You will likely be offered a Post and Forfeit, which essentially means that you will have to pay a \$50 ticket in order to be released (and will have no subsequent court dates). In order to accept it you will need \$50 in cash to pay at the Capitol Police Headquarters. We recommend that you have exact change.
- For identification purposes, please bring your Drivers’ License, State issued ID, or Passport.
- Remember your medications (if any). If you suffer from any serious chronic illnesses (high blood pressure, diabetes, etc.), we recommend that you bring with you any medications you take regularly to cover you for up to 6 hours, even though we expect you will be released much sooner.
- **If you have concerns about medications or medical conditions please make a note on the sign-up form and bring it up with the organizer who you have been in contact with before Feb. 26th.**
- Remember to eat a good meal and use the bathroom before the action!
- Complete the [Feb 27 Participant Information Form](#)

### **Considerations during the arrest:**

- **Follow the plan.** Please remember that we are undertaking an action that is unprecedented in scale. It is imperative that you act responsibly to ensure that our strongest message is heard that day.
- **Do not resist arrest.** Officers will signal to you gently when they intend on arresting you. At this moment, stand up and facilitate the process. Continue chanting and/or singing, but do

not argue or act aggressively in any way towards your arresting officer. Do not be dragged away. Do not link arms or legs with others. Do not lock yourself down to anybody or anything. Remember, Capitol Police are not the target of our action!

- **Participate in a Civil Disobedience training.** Trainings will be held by phone on Thursday, February 22nd at 8:00 p.m. Eastern and in person in Washington, DC on February 27th.