



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

January 12, 2015

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service's (LIRS) opposes proposed amendments to H.R. 240, the Fiscal Year 2015 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

As the national organization established in 1939 by Lutheran churches in the United States to serve uprooted people, LIRS is called by our faith to stand for welcome, justice and compassion for all migrants and refugees.

If passed, proposed amendments would have devastating effects on members of our families, communities and congregations, including young people who arrived in the United States as children.

The following two amendments are of most concern to LIRS:

- The **Aderholt/Mulvaney/Barletta amendment** would needlessly rupture families due to deportation. This amendment erects barriers to family unity by preventing the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, the extension of relief from deportation to certain undocumented parents of U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident children, and the prioritizing of immigration enforcement on serious threats to our communities.
- The **Blackburn amendment** would lead to instability and fear in our workplaces, schools, communities and congregations by exposing hundreds of thousands of young people who were brought to the United States as children, or "DREAMers", to the possibility of deportation.

LIRS supports stabilizing the status of people who are valuable members of our communities, worship in our churches, and call America home. LIRS believes that migrants who are integral to our communities and are beloved members of our families should be free from fear of deportation in order to focus on their continued contributions to country they call home.

We urge members of the House of Representatives to oppose these proposed amendments to H.R. 240 and instead work to extend compassion and justice to migrants and refugees. We call on Representatives to approve funding legislation that maintains our proud history as a nation of welcome.