

**For Immediate Release**

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**Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition issues statement endorsing Vigil for Dreamers - Congress Square**

PORTLAND, MAINE-- On Tuesday, February 21, 2018, Mufalo Chitam, Executive Director of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) issues the following statement:

“On behalf of the board and members of the Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition, I extend my gratitude to our community for coming together to pray, and stand in solidarity collectively urging our legislators to pass a Clean Dream Act now which will benefit the lives of over 20,000 immigrant young people now threatened due to the termination of the DACA program.

**DREAMERS & IMMIGRATION REFORM**

As MIRC we support immigration reform that will not only ensure that undocumented youth and young adults who came to this country as children can stay in the United States — the only place they know as home — and pursue a path to citizenship, But includes permanent protection for all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. Yes, dreamers!! but also their parents and relatives who are equally as deserving of permanent protection, dignity, and respect.

Immigrants from many countries, ethnicities, religions make up the vibrant fabric of the United States. MIRC continues to advocate for a robust immigration system and a welcoming atmosphere for immigrants who make our country - and especially Maine - their home."

**MIRC VALUES**

Communication: MIRC values the voice that the coalition gives to the immigrant community. As a community we will be successful when immigrant voices statewide are fully represented and included at the table on issues that matter to immigrants and refugees.

Collaboration: MIRC values collaboration and the shared sense of purpose. As a community we will be successful when we collaborate well to achieve policy objectives that improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives and strengthening Maine."

*The Maine Immigrants' Rights Coalition (MIRC) strives to improve the legal, social and economic conditions experienced by Maine's immigrants – enhancing their lives while strengthening Maine – through advocacy, information sharing and collaboration both through and among our member organizations.*

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