

Valley Interfaith asking Cuellar to sign DACA petition

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By Fernando del Valle, Staff writer

HARLINGEN — Rio Grande Valley church leaders today called on U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, to follow two South Texas lawmakers in pushing for a Congressional showdown to decide the fate of Dreamers.

Valley Interfaith supported the decisions to U.S. Reps. Filemon Vela, D-Brownsville, and Vicente Gonzalez, D-McAllen, after they announced Tuesday they would sign a petition by backers of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which President Donald Trump canceled last year.

The announcement brings supporters of the petition within three signatures of the 218 needed to trigger a vote on the fate of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers.

“We’re glad they made the decision they made and we have to continue,” the Rev. Daniel E. Flores, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville, told reporters at a press conference at Queen of Peace Catholic Church here.

“This is a commitment to our young people that they are not alone — to give them the opportunity to do what they want to do to share their talents for the good of the whole community,” Flores said. “We seek a permanent solution to the limbo so many (Dreamers) are going through right now.”

Rev. Bill Duke, pastor of First United Methodist Church in Mission, called on Cuellar to sign the petition.

Valley Interfaith, which represents churches in the Valley, wants to meet with Cuellar, Eddie Anaya, a Las Milpas attorney on Valley Interfaith’s executive committee, said.



Bishop Daniel E. Flores of the Catholic Diocese of Brownsville was one of several speakers at a news conference hosted by Valley Interfaith in which they discussed local congressman’s stance on the DACA discharge petition in Congress and other changes regarding Homeland Security. By Maricela Rodriguez, Valley Morning Star