



BRIDGES NOT WALLS

“...He is our peace, He who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh...” -Ephesians 2:14

Pope Francis prays on the U.S border while visiting Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. *Catholic News Agency photo/Paul Haring*

We're a Church full of immigrants and the descendants of immigrants, who follow a former refugee named Jesus, and who have been commanded to welcome the stranger.

Our Bishops are calling on U.S. Catholics to continue to advocate on **immigration policy**. Congress won't be voting on legislation during their August recess, but now is a great time to call your representatives' home offices to talk about upcoming issues. Two especially pressing ones are:

The Proposed Border Wall

\$1.6 billion in funding has been proposed for building three sections of fencing along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez, Chairman of the USCCB's (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) Committee on Migration explained the USCCB's strong **opposition** to the proposed wall:

“...we fear that construction of such a wall would put immigrant lives needlessly in harm's way, could increase the risk of women and child migrants being trafficked, and destabilize the many interconnected communities that live peacefully along the border.

Moreover, an expenditure of the amount of funding necessary to construct such a wall does not reflect a proper prioritization of scarce federal funds in a time of fiscal austerity.”

Immigrants Who Arrived in the U.S. as Children

Undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children have been working hard for years to pass legislation that would grant them legal status and an eventual path to citizenship. The latest proposed bill is the Dream Act of 2017, S. 1615, recently introduced in the Senate as a bipartisan effort.

The USCCB's Justice for Immigrants campaign describes these “Dreamers” this way:

The young people S. 1615 seeks to protect are contributors to our economy, veterans of our military, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes and communities. As Catholics, we have long supported DREAMERS as we believe in protecting the dignity of every human being, especially that of our children.

BORDER WALL contd.

This \$1.6 billion in funding will most likely be included in a mini-budget bill which will also include funding for defense and the Veterans Administration.

This means members of Congress will have to offer amendments to remove this border wall funding or be courageous enough to vote against this broad funding in order to stop the wall.

Call upon your member of Congress to stand up against this wasteful and harmful wall.

Rep. Louise Slaughter: (585) 232-4850
Rep. Tom Reed: (607) 654-7566
Rep. Chris Collins: (716)-634-2324
Rep. John Katko: (315) 423-5657

DREAMERS contd.**1) Sign the petition**

www.justiceforimmigrants.org/category/action-alerts/

in favor of the Dream Act of 2017 which states:

We believe immigrant youth deserve continued protection and a path to citizenship.

I urge you to:

- ◇ **Support and co-sponsor S. 1615, the Dream Act of 2017; and**
- ◇ **Continue to work towards larger legislative reform of our immigration laws.**

2) Then e-mail Sen. Schumer to thank him for already co-sponsoring the bill

www.schumer.senate.gov/contact/email-chuck

OPPOSE THE RAISE ACT

Recently proposed, the RAISE Act would permanently cap the number of refugees permitted into the U.S. at a paltry 50,000. It would also make it much harder for naturalized citizens to sponsor their family members to join them in the U.S.

"Had this discriminatory legislation been in place generations ago, many of the very people who built and defended this nation would have been excluded...."

The United States supports families and should not throw up obstacles to their unity. Unfortunately, the RAISE Act would have our nation turn its back on this long and storied tradition of welcoming families setting out to build a better life.

As a Church, we believe the stronger the bonds of family, the greater a person's chance of succeeding in life. The RAISE Act imposes a definition of family that would weaken those bonds."

— [Bishop Joe S. Vásquez](#), Chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Migration

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