



WORKING TOGETHER

FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Families, Faith and Action



<http://dropbox.teamgroup.tv/data/americas/Faith%20Spot%20Ver%203.mov>

Humane Immigration Reform

The Reform Must Be Comprehensive: The proposal must simultaneously address the following issues: 1) undocumented immigrants working and living in the United States; 2) the future flow of workers and close family members; 3) the need for tailored, targeted, effective enforcement of more realistic policies; and 4) support for the successful integration of newcomers in the communities where they settle. It should offer:

- **A legalization program that provides a path to citizenship:** a broad-based legalization process that provides the opportunity to acquire legal status for undocumented migrants who have settled in the United States. It should provide a path to lawful permanent residency, and eventually citizenship, to undocumented migrants already settled in the United States. Opportunities should be provided for undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. to receive work permits and travel permission and access educational opportunities once they undergo background and security checks.

Humane Immigration Reform

- **Family based immigration reform:** Family unity should be a central value of our immigration system. Restrictive laws and bureaucratic delays too often undermine this cornerstone of our legal immigration system. Waiting times for separated families should be significantly reduced.
- **Protection of workers:** Reform should not only provide new and wider legal channels for workers needed in the United States but be oriented to protect worker rights and avoid exploitation and abuses for both foreign and U.S. workers. The worker visa program should adequately protect the wages and working conditions of U.S. and immigrant workers. It should also allow workers to change employers, provide a path to permanent status, family unity, and mobility between U.S. and their homeland. The program should be designed in relation to labor market test to ensure U.S. workers are not negatively affected.
- **Restore the rule of law and due process protections:** the enforcement of immigration laws should be realistic and enforceable, respecting the rule of law and civic and human rights. Reform should include provisions that restore due process protections.

Humane Immigration Reform

- **Enhance security and borders:** true reform should guarantee that enforcement and security mechanisms are consistent with humanitarian values. The enforcement process should focus on criminals, including unscrupulous employers who exploit vulnerable workers, human and drug smugglers, human traffickers, etc.
- **Facilitate integration:** the federal and state governments should provide assistance to local communities and governments to facilitate the comprehensive integration of immigrants into the community, including language, civics, culture, etc.
- **Addressing root causes of migration:** comprehensive immigration reform would also consider long term solutions to address the causes of migration such as underdevelopment in sending communities.

The Episcopal Church & Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Executive Council EXCo62005-40

Support for US Immigration Reform

Resolved, That the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Louisville, Kentucky from June 13-16, 2005, concerned about serious flaws in the US immigration system, supports the enactment of legislation which would: permit the orderly entry of legal workers to the US to respond to recognized labor force needs; ensure that close family members be allowed to enter or be reunited with individuals legally entering the US to accept employment; permit undocumented migrants residing in the US at the time of the enactment of legislation to pursue legal residence and eventual citizenship if they are employed or responding to an offer of employment; and ensure that migrants working legally in the US be granted the rights and benefits accorded US workers, including the right to change employment.

RESOLUTION: A017-2006 “The Alien Among You”

Resolved, That the 75th General Convention of The Episcopal Church receive “The Alien Among You” in the Blue Book Report of the Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace with Justice Concerns; and, while recognizing the duty and right of a sovereign nation to protect and defend its borders, adopt the following fundamental principles included in “The Alien Among You” as the policy of The Episcopal Church.

- Undocumented aliens should have reasonable opportunity to pursue permanent residency.
- Legal workers should be allowed to enter the United States to respond to recognized labor force needs.
- Close family members should be allowed to reunite without undue delay with individuals lawfully present in the United States.
- Fundamental U.S. principles of legal due process should be granted all persons.
- Enforcement of national borders and immigration policies should be proportional and humane; and be it further

Advocating for Immigration

- ❖ Creating and Strengthen our Advocacy Immigration Network
- ❖ Working with Congress and the Administration to provide legislative and administrative solutions to the immigration issue.
- ❖ Providing better channels of communication (website, newsletter, alerts, etc.)
- ❖ Education in our churches and communities
- ❖ Networking, sharing resources and learning from experiences and projects developed in different dioceses
- ❖ Coordinate and engage more people in advocacy efforts

PARTNERS and ALLIES

- **Interfaith Immigration Coalition**
- **Family Immigration Coalition**
- **National Immigration Forum**
- **Christians for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**
- **America's Voice**
- **Refugee Council USA**

Interfaith Immigration Coalition

Platform on Humane Immigration Reform:

Immigration: A matter of human rights

Six Principles:

- ✓ Uphold family unity as a priority of all immigration policies
- ✓ Create a process for undocumented immigrants to earn their legal status and eventual citizenship
- ✓ Protect workers and provide efficient channels of entry for new migrant workers
- ✓ Facilitate immigrant integration
- ✓ Restore due process protections and reform detention policies
- ✓ Align the enforcement of immigration laws with humanitarian values

More than 500 signatories!!



Advocacy, Awareness, Education and Action

Advocacy Immigration Network: join our network and receive monthly updates, a quarterly newsletter and action alerts.

National Interfaith Immigration Calls: the Interfaith Immigration Coalition hosts monthly immigration calls that offer updates on immigration legislation and skill building trainings for coordinated local events and advocacy efforts. These calls take place the first Monday of every month at 4 pm EST

Prayer Vigils Campaign: The Interfaith Immigration Coalition organized a **Prayer, Renewal and Action on Immigration Campaign**, a national effort to organize prayer vigils coinciding with the first recess of this session of Congress, **February 13-22**, when members were home in their districts.

Neighbor to Neighbor Visits: The IIC called on faith communities to hold “**Neighbor to Neighbor**” in-district meetings with their Members of Congress during the congressional recess **April 6-17**. During these meetings, faith communities discussed how they have been good neighbors to our newly arrived immigrant neighbors and then ask the Member how he/she can be a good neighbor to immigrants through their stance on immigration reform.

Action Alerts: get action alerts and send letters to your rep. [www.actionalerts.org](#) and want to see humanitarian and fair immigration reform this year.



Legislative Update

- **Reintroduction of the DREAM Act** in both the House (**HR1751**) and the Senate (**S729**) on Thursday, March 26th. The DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act) was introduced by Senators Richard Durbin (D-IL), Richard Lugar (R-IN), Russell Feingold (D-WI), Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Patrick Leahy (D-VT), Joe Lieberman (I-CT), Mel Martinez (R-FL), and Harry Reid (D-NV) in the Senate and Representatives Howard Berman (D-CA), Joseph Cao (R-LA), John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Devin Nunes (R-CA), Jared Polis (D-CO), Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) in the House of Representatives. This bipartisan legislation addresses the situation faced by young people who were brought to the United States years ago as undocumented immigrant children, and who have since grown up here but are being denied the ability to fully contribute to society. The DREAM Act would provide certain undocumented youth conditional legal status and eventual citizenship, if they attend college or join the military. It would also allow immigrant students access to higher education by returning to states the authority to determine who qualifies for in-state tuition.
- **The Access to Justice Act** was introduced by Representative James Moran (D-VA-8). **H.R.1651** would create a right to file a motion to reopen an immigration case if deficient performance of counsel can be demonstrated. This bill seeks to overturn a decision made by AG Mukasey in the last days of the Bush Administration.
- **HR 182 Rep. Serrano.** Discretionary Authority to Immigration judge to determine that an immigrant parent of a US citizen child should be not ordered removed, deported or excluded from the United States.
- **Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act** The Episcopal Church signed on a letter in support of the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act of 2009, a bill Rep. Roybal-Allard (D-CA) re-introduced. Rep. Roybal-Allard introduced HR 7255, the Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act of 2008 in October 2008. The 2009 bill has substantially the same text as the 2008 version with the exception of minor technical amendments and a few improvements. The 2009 bill adds new provisions on the following: 1) a new confidentiality section governing the release of information about unaccompanied alien children; 2) a new section requiring training of all personnel in all facilities in which non-citizens are detained. The 2009 bill improves upon the existing sections from the 2008 version: 1) transfer of detainees; 2) the location of facilities; 3) legal visits to detainees; 4) access to detention facilities for NGOs and other independent observers.
- **Equality in Immigration Family Reunification** **H.R. 1024, introduced by Jerrold Nadler (D-NY) and others** and **S. 424, introduced by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and others.** This bill would treat the permanent partners of citizens and permanent residents the same as spouses of citizens and permanent residents for immigration purposes.

Advocating for Immigration Reform

- ✓ **Find out who represents you in Congress.**
- ✓ **Know your audience.**
- ✓ **Schedule a meeting.**
- ✓ **Tell your story.**
- ✓ **Be timely.**
- ✓ **Bring Facts.**
- ✓ **Follow up.**
- ✓ **Build a relationship.**
- ✓ **Stay up to date!**
- ✓ **Get others involved!**

Advocating for Refugees & Immigrants

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