

March 27, 2006

TO: All concerned about having “A Just Approach to Immigration Reform”

FROM: The Archdiocese of Newark’s Office of Human Concerns
Dept of Social Development & World Peace (US Conference of Catholic Bishops)
And St Thomas More Public Discipleship Ministry

SUBJECT: **Action Alert – Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

The next few weeks will be crucial to the fate of comprehensive **immigration reform** this year. This important topic will be debated in the Senate from March 27 to April 6. During this time, legislators will be discussing various pieces of proposed legislation and other initiatives, and the Senate Judiciary Committee will begin “marking up” immigration reform in Washington, DC.

We need to take action by urging support (contact information below) of legislation that provides a fair and just approach toward those who migrant to our country in the hope of a better life, specifically:

- Support an amendment in the Judiciary Committee which would allow a path to permanent residency for the 11-12 million undocumented persons in the country;
- Support an amendment which would provide a path to permanent residency for participants in any temporary worker program;
- Support an amendment offered by Senator Richard Durbin to strike language marking undocumented immigrants criminals and exempting humanitarian workers from criminal penalties for assisting undocumented immigrants;
- Oppose amendments by Senator Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama) which authorize state and local law enforcement to enforce immigration from an enforcement-only approach;
- Contact Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn) and urge him to participate in legislative initiatives which would result in a just and fair approach to immigration reform. (Phone: 202-224-3344)

Please call Senator Lautenberg and Senator Menendez (also Senator Bill Frist) regarding immigration reform, and specifically mention the above points of reference. Their contact information is:

Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)	202-224-3224 (DC) or 973-639-8700 (NJ)
Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ)	202-224-4744 (DC) or 973-645-3030 (NJ)
Senate Majority Leader, Bill Frist (R-Tenn)	202-224-3344

Now is the time to weigh in with your legislators. Please call. Thank you!