

The Immigration Debate: What You Can Do

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The Immigration Debate

What You Can Do

1. Sign a postcard to Senators Grassley and Harkin before you leave the prayer service.
2. Call, write or email Senators Grassley and Harkin with a personal message.

*Urge the Senator to **support** legislation which would:*

- provide a comprehensive and compassionate approach to U.S. immigration policy.
 - provide a legal “pathway to citizenship” (not just temporary legal status) and an opportunity to “earn legalization” for immigrants who are already in this country.
 - allow family members to join immigrants who are living or working legally in this country.
 - insure mobility for immigrant workers.
 - protect the due process rights and individual liberties of immigrants.
 - recognize the valuable social and economic contribution of immigrants in our country.
- *For details of the U.S. Catholic bishops’ proposals for comprehensive immigration reform, see the bishops’ website: <www.justiceforimmigrants.org/bishops_call>.*

*Urge the Senator to **oppose** legislation which would:*

- treat immigration issues as a law enforcement issue, rather than a social, economic and moral issue.
- confuse immigration with homeland security and the “war on terrorism.”
- criminalize undocumented presence and subject undocumented immigrants to federal prosecution.
- criminalize humanitarian assistance to undocumented immigrants and subject church workers and social workers to federal prosecution.
- force potential immigrants to rely upon illegal and dangerous alternatives to a reasonable and legal entry process.

3. Visit Senator Grassley or Senator Harkin’s local offices in person.

Explain your concerns to the Senators’ staff or ask to schedule a personal meeting with the Senator the next time he is in Iowa.

You can do this as an individual, or with a group of friends who share your concerns about immigration policy. Invite individuals who have been personally affected by the current policy to share their stories.

- *Examples of personal experiences are available on the Detention Watch Network website: <www.detentionwatchnetwork.org>.*

4. Encourage friends, family members, co-workers, church members -- anyone who is interested -- to take similar action.

5. Download and distribute email or print copies of current information about the debate to individuals and groups you are associated with. Urge them to learn the facts about immigration and to avoid political myths.

- *A good source of information, including questions-and-answers about immigration, is available at the U.S. Catholic bishops’ website: <www.justiceforimmigrants.org>.*

6. Write a letter to the local newspaper, explaining your support for a compassionate and comprehensive national immigration policy. Explain the repercussions of restrictive laws which criminalize undocumented presence and humanitarian assistance to undocumented immigrants by church and social agencies.

- *Talking points and sample letters are available on the Archdiocese of Dubuque’s website: <www.arch.pvt.k12.ia.us/socialservice/legislativeadvocacy>.*