

Catholic Conference of Ohio

June 5, 2007

Dear Ohio Senators,

On behalf of the Catholic Conference of Ohio, I encourage you to support amendments to S. 1348, the Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007, which strengthen family unity. I also encourage you to oppose amendments that limit the number of persons eligible for the Z visa legalization program.

SUPPORT:

Mendez-Hagel (#1194): Would move the cut-off date for family backlog reduction from May 2005 to January 1, 2007. This would help 800,000 applications and strengthen family reunification.

Clinton-Hagel (#1183): Would move immediate relatives (spouses, minor children) of legal permanent residents (LPRs) from a capped category to the uncapped immediate relative category, thereby eliminating backlogs in this category.

Obama-Menendez (#1202): Would sunset merit-based "point" system after five years.

Dodd-Menendez (#1199): Would increase the number of green cards for parents of U.S. citizens to 90,000 from 40,000.

Kerry: Would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement to provide access to state social service agencies and legal orientation sessions for immigrants involved in enforcement raids. It also would allow for the release of vulnerable populations, including single mothers, involved in a raid.

Lieberman (#1191): Would establish detention standards for asylum-seekers and allow for release on bond for asylum-seekers.

OPPOSE:

Cornyn (#1184 and #1250): Cornyn #1184 would limit eligibility for the "Z" legalization program by disqualifying those who committed document fraud, among other minor offenses. #1250 would restrict confidentiality protections (to protect against deportation) in the legalization program.

Grassley (#1166): Would limit judicial review of visa revocations.

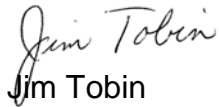
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Sessions (#1234 and #1235): Sessions #1234 would deny earned-income tax credit (EITC) to Z and Y visa holders and #1235 would deny EITC to legal immigrants in the country five years or less.

Ensign: Expected amendment would deny Social Security payments to Z visa holders based on earnings made while out of status.

Inhofe: Makes English the official language of the United States. This could lead to discrimination against Spanish speakers with limited English proficiency.

Thank you for this consideration.



Jim Tobin
Associate Director