



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Ask Senators Coleman &
Klobuchar to Support
Migrant Farmworkers &
Invest in Our Food Security!**

November 5th, 2007

Background:

Between 50-75% of all agricultural workers in the United States are undocumented. These are the men and women who grow, pick, wash, process and deliver our nation's food – yet remain in the shadows and outside of the protections and basic rights afforded to American citizen's and workers.

Farmers across the country are struggling to save their crop before it rots in the field – there are simply not enough workers, as many have gone deeper into hiding due to increased immigration enforcement.

The H-2A foreign agricultural worker program allows the hiring of 50,000 workers per year, which is about 2% of the total agricultural workforce. Despite the need, there is not a legal path for workers to follow in order to fill the jobs that our economy necessitates.

Proposed legislation – *the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security (AgJOBS) Act of 2007 (S.340/H.R.371)* - would take a major step in repairing our current broken system. AgJOBS would streamline the H-2A temporary worker program to make it more practical, secure and fair. It would also provide an earned path to citizenship for those workers who have been hard at work the past 3 to 5 years.

Catholic social teaching clearly states that we must act on behalf of the dignity and rights of workers. Our Church calls us to stand in solidarity and consistently question the reality that workers face. Our country's agricultural workers need and deserve your advocacy.

Recommended Action:

Call Your U.S. Senators Today!

AgJOBS has the potential of being added as an amendment onto the Senate Farm Bill.

Ask Senators Coleman & Klobuchar to support inclusion of the AgJOBS bill into the Senate Farm Bill.

It is crucial that we have a sufficient and authorized farm labor base that is treated fairly and with dignity. AgJOBS is a bipartisan, carefully crafted piece of legislation supported by the religious, business and immigrant community. Please support AgJOBS and America's workers.

Senator Norm Coleman
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Senator Amy Klobuchar
(202) 224-3244

FFI: Contact Patrick Ness at 651-291-4484