



Sowers of Justice

Catholic Legislative Network

**Action
Alert**

**Contact your Senators and
Representatives to support the
Secure America and Orderly
Immigration Act of 2005**

July 26, 2005

Background: On May 12, 2005, Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) in the U.S. Senate and Representatives Jim Kolbe (R-Ariz.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), and Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) in the House of Representatives introduced the Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act of 2005 (S. 1033, H.R. 2330). The legislation creates a path to citizenship for undocumented workers currently in the United States, a temporary worker program for future workers, and makes changes to the family preference system to reduce family reunification backlogs. The Senate Judiciary Committee will be holding a hearing on the legislation and other related bills on July 26, 2005. Comprehensive immigration reform legislation could be considered in committee as early as September.

USCCB Position

In the pastoral statement, *Strangers No Longer: Together on the Journey of Hope*, the U.S. and Mexican Catholic bishops laid out principles for a just immigration reform proposal, including a legalization program for undocumented in the country; a temporary worker program with appropriate worker protections; reform of the family preference system to reduce waiting times for family reunification; and restoration of due process protections for immigrants. On July 19, 2005, Bishop Gerald Barnes, bishop of San Bernardino, California, and chairman of the USCCB Committee on Migration, issued a statement in support of S. 1033 and H.R. 2330. Bishop Barnes stated that the legislative proposal “best reflects principles for immigration reform set forth by the United States bishops.”

Recommended Action:

Please contact your Senators:

Senator Norm Coleman (202-224-5641) and
Senator Mark Dayton (202-224-3244)

as well as your Representatives as soon as possible and ask him/her to cosponsor and support the legislation. Please go to <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/action.html> to take immediate action in support of this legislation.

For further information about this Action Alert, please contact Kathy Tomlin 651-291-4537.