



Sisters of the Good Shepherd

**The National  
Advocacy Center**

June 27, 2007

Dear Senator,

The National Advocacy Center believes that workable, fair immigration reform bill must include a legitimate and feasible earned legalization program for undocumented immigrants, strong family reunification provisions and policies to regulate future flow that respect family ties and provide all workers with full labor protections, and border and enforcement polices that are humanitarian and respect the civil liberties of ALL people. To move the Senate bill more toward these principles we strongly urge you to:

**SUPPORT** family reunification amendments to S.1639 including the:

- Dodd parents of U.S. citizens amendment. This amendment would undo some of the harm of the current agreement by increasing the number of visas available for parents of U.S. citizens and extending the length of the parent visitor visa.
- Menendez/Obama/Feingold family ties amendment #1317. This amendment would promote greater respect for families within the new point system by giving greater weight to applicants who have family ties to the U.S. and thus allowing more families to be reunited. This a very small fix to the sweeping changes the bill makes to family immigration policies that show a significant disregard for family values.

**OPPOSE** amendments to S.1639 that would limit the earned legalization program, impose greater penalties on migrants, and that would mandate enforcement of immigration laws by state and local officials, especially the:

- Graham/Kyl/Martinez “Omnibus” amendment. This amendment contains mandatory detention provisions, a permanent bar on relief for individuals who overstay their visas even one day, and burdensome mandates for state and local law enforcement. This amendment overreaches, violates core due process principles and undermines the workability of the new Y and Z visa programs. It is punitive rather than practical and places undue burdens on both communities and immigrants.
- Coleman and other local law enforcement amendments. These amendments would jeopardize community safety by commandeering state and local police for immigration enforcement, encouraging racial profiling, confusing civil and criminal law. Such provisions discourage immigrant cooperation with local authorities, make it less likely that immigrant victims of violence will seek needed assistance, and add nothing to national security. This amendment will directly and negatively impact immigrant women and children served by Good Shepherd programs.
- Bond limitation of green cards amendment. This amendment would prohibit Z visa holders from becoming lawful permanent residents and force the undocumented population into a permanent underclass.
- ANY amendments that restrict judicial review, impose greater fines, or increase the barriers to legalization for the undocumented population. The National Advocacy Center is deeply disturbed by the emphasis in a number of amendments on punishing often desperate migrants rather than offering a realistic solution to illegal migration. The nature of many of these amendments reflects a fundamental lack of respect for human rights and dignity and an even deeper lack of compassion.

Recognizing the need for compromise, the National Advocacy Center has supported debate moving forward in the Senate. However, we remain deeply troubled by provisions that cater more to fear than to the best of our values and that fail to recognize the human face of immigration. We urge you to honor our nation's immigrant heritage and the biblical call to welcome the stranger by following the recommendations listed above.

Sincerely,

Alison L. Prevost