Dear Representative,

I write on behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) Committee on Migration in support of H.R.4928, The New Deal for New Americans Act, introduced by Representative Grace Meng (D-NY). The bill makes a number of important policy developments to further assist and integrate immigrants and refugees.

The foundation of Catholic social teaching on migration is the dignity of every human being because we have each been created in the image and likeness of God. The Catholic Church is called and committed to welcoming newcomers in our midst, including refugees and immigrants, and our teaching is based on the words and actions of Jesus Christ. Scripture tells us that the Holy Family itself experienced the trauma of being uprooted and forced to flee their home, and in the parable of the Judgement of the Nations in Matthew 25, Jesus preached that one of our fundamental calls is to welcome the stranger and make them welcome. Today, our Holy Father Pope Francis continues to urge us all to take Jesus’ words to heart and to welcome, protect, promote, and integrate refugees and immigrants.

H.R.4928 would initiate a number of important measures. It would establish a National Office of New Americans in the White House, and provide social, economic, and civic support to refugees and rebuild the capacity and infrastructure of local communities to welcome refugees. H.R. 4928 would also set a minimum refugee admissions goal of 110,000 and eliminate roadblocks to citizenship for eligible residents.

The Christian call to welcome is consistent with the values of our nation at its best, a nation of immigrants and refugees, of the Statue of Liberty, and of the “shining city on the Hill.” I encourage all of you to join us in supporting H.R.4928, The New Deal for New Americans.

Yours truly,

Most Reverend Mario E. Dorsonville
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington
Chair of the USCCB Committee on Migration