



## Committee on Migration

**c/o Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB**

3211 Fourth Street NE • Washington DC 20017-1194

202-541-3065 • fax 202-722-8805 • email [mrs@uscgb.org](mailto:mrs@uscgb.org) • [www.usccb.org/mrs](http://www.usccb.org/mrs)

February 17, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader of the Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

I write on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration (USCCB/COM) to express appreciation for the Biden Administration's efforts to make the introduction of broad immigration reform legislation a high priority during its first 100 days. We also ask that the 117th Congress enact broad immigration reform legislation and move swiftly to pass two important measures that had bipartisan support in the previous Congress, as well as the support of the USCCB.<sup>1</sup> More specifically, we ask that the House of Representatives and Senate act before April 1, 2021, to pass the American Dream and Promise Act as well as the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which were introduced during the 116th Congress as H.R. 6 and H.R. 5038, respectively.

As you know, on January 21, 2021, President Biden announced that Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA) would soon be introducing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021, a measure that will contain President Biden's proposed changes to the U.S. immigration system. We await the emergence of the text of that measure and hope to be able to support it once it is introduced. At the same time, we note that, historically, enactment of broad-based immigration legislation can take some time to accomplish. Accordingly, we urge the House to take up and pass the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act without delay.

Together, the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act would establish a path to citizenship for immigrant youth, TPS holders, DED holders, and

---

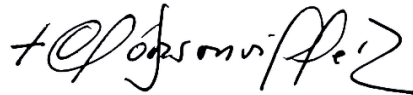
<sup>1</sup> Our previous expressions of support can be viewed [here](https://bit.ly/2LZKF4E) (<https://bit.ly/2LZKF4E>) and [here](https://bit.ly/3u7oJWt) (<https://bit.ly/3u7oJWt>).

seasonal farmworkers, many of whom have lived in and served communities across the United States for many years.

The Catholic Church believes in protecting the dignity of every human being, regardless of immigration status. My brother bishops and I have long supported immigration reform efforts to allow those who are contributors to our economy, academic standouts in our universities, and leaders in our parishes to come forward and fully integrate into American life. It is both our moral duty and in our nation's best interest to recognize the contributions of so many hardworking immigrants and allow them to reach their God-given potential.

For these reasons, we ask that Congress expeditiously take up the American Dream and Promise Act and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act. Action in the House before April 1, 2021, would remove the need to consider the legislation in committee, which we think is appropriate given that they both passed the House on a bipartisan basis during the 116th Congress. We also urge Congress to continue to work toward the larger legislative reform of our immigration laws that our country so desperately needs. As always, the USCCB stands ready to work with Congress to reform our immigration system in a humane, just, and reasonable manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario E. Dorsonville". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping tail.

Most Rev. Mario E. Dorsonville  
Auxiliary Bishop of Washington  
Chair, USCCB Committee on Migration

CC: All U.S. Senators  
All U.S. House of Representatives Members