



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@uscceb.org • www.usccb.org/mrs

September 23, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

I write on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Migration during [National Migration Week](#) to reaffirm our support for legalization and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented people living in the United States. Enactment this year of legislation providing for this reform is crucial for millions of undocumented people who live and labor as vital members of our communities, as well as for the communities themselves. We are especially mindful of Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status holders, Deferred Enforced Departure beneficiaries, undocumented agricultural workers, and other undocumented essential workers. The COVID-19 pandemic has been a particularly potent reminder of the disadvantages and hardships faced by those without legal status, including the many longtime residents who have served in our armed forces, pay taxes, own homes and businesses, and support mixed-status families.

When Pope Francis addressed a joint meeting of Congress in 2015, he said: "A nation can be considered great when it defends liberty as Lincoln did, when it fosters a culture which enables people to 'dream' of full rights for all their brothers and sisters, as Martin Luther King sought to do; when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed, as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work, the fruit of a faith which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton."

We urge you to work together to fulfill these ideals and promote the full integration of undocumented persons already living as Americans in principle, if not on paper.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the common good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mario E. Dorsonville".

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

CC: All Senators and Representatives