



USCCB Committee on Migration

C/O MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

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**Statement of Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes
Bishop of San Bernardino, California
Chairman, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
On
The Failure of Immigration Reform**

June 28, 2007

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I am deeply troubled that a fair and comprehensive immigration reform legislation has failed to move forward in the U.S. Senate.

I applaud those U.S. Senators of both parties who showed courage in working for comprehensive reform legislation and encourage them to continue their efforts to fix our broken immigration system.

As a nation, we cannot continue to employ an immigration system that leads to the exploitation of millions of our fellow human beings. We cannot accept the toil of a large underclass which does not have full rights in our society. This strikes at the very character of our nation and lessens us as a people.

I urge our elected officials in Congress not to abandon this issue and to return to it as soon as possible. The status quo is morally unacceptable and should not be allowed to stand. The U.S. bishops shall continue to point out the moral deficiencies in the immigration system and work toward justice until it is achieved.

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