



## **NETWORK Statement Regarding the “SAFE Act—HR 2278”**

*June 12, 2013*

NETWORK deplores continuing efforts to harm genuine immigration reform through legislative efforts that cater to fear-based partisan interests. The Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act (SAFE Act) is just such an effort.

It is unjust to divert money needed to address human needs toward bigger fences and unneeded security measures. Representative Gowdy asserts that border security promises of the past were not kept. That is wrong. In recent years we have spent hundreds of billions of dollars on fences, drones, heat-seeking devices, border patrol agents, etc.

There are currently as many people leaving the U.S. as entering. Immigration into the U.S. is the lowest it has been in 40 years.

The SAFE Act will not serve the needs of our nation. It perpetuates unsafe, impractical interior enforcement practices that cater to the fear-mongering all too prevalent in our nation.

Our organization sponsors the “Nuns on the Bus” campaign, which just visited Representative Gowdy’s district office. The Sisters’ message was simple: We need immigration laws that reflect our values, not our fears.

NETWORK calls for commonsense immigration reform that:

- Ensures family unity
- Protects the rights of immigrant workers
- Acknowledges that our borders are already secure, with only minor changes needed
- Speeds up processing of already-approved immigrants
- Enhances the present diversity visa program
- Provides a clear and direct pathway to citizenship for the 11 million people who are undocumented in the U.S