



March 3, 2015

NETWORK Statement for House Judiciary Committee Markup

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby, has long advocated for commonsense, humane immigration reform because the current shattered system does not reflect Gospel values. Catholic Social Teaching and Scripture teach us that each person has a right to be treated with dignity, and that any system that is deliberately cruel or inhumane needs to change. Our immigration law is broken and we need to fix it.

One of the cruelest aspects of our immigration system is that human suffering results from family separation. Unified families bring stability to individual households while they strengthen neighborhoods and communities. NETWORK and other faith leaders have been working for years to urge members of Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform which allows people who are undocumented an opportunity to apply for citizenship because we believe that places family as the center of reform and upholds a long tradition of justice.

The four bills proposed by Members of the House Judiciary Committee today represent a huge step backward for families across this county. Instead of creating an opportunity for hardworking immigrant families to come out of the shadows of society and become full members, these bills create new and destructive barriers. We once again ask Members of Congress to work together in a bipartisan fashion to pass immigration reform that promotes family unity and provides a pathway to citizenship to undocumented people.