



Committee on Migration

c/o Migration and Refugee Services, USCCB

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), I write in opposition to H.R. 5759, the “Preventing Executive Overreach on Immigration Act of 2014.” As a general matter, this legislation seeks to prevent the executive branch from taking executive action to even temporarily protect categories of persons who are unlawfully present in the United States from removal. Moreover, the proposed bill could have unintended consequences by unreasonably limiting the ability of this and future Administrations to enforce immigration law efficiently and to ensure public safety.

With specific respect to the immigration-related executive actions announced by the Administration on November 20, 2014, the measure, on its face, seeks to preclude the executive branch from temporarily protecting millions of individuals—mainly parents of U.S. citizens or permanent residents—from removal.

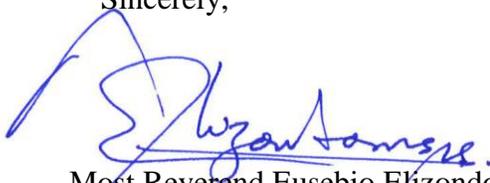
As you may know, the USCCB has long supported the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform legislation that includes a path to citizenship for undocumented persons residing in the country. In fact, USCCB frequently has urged the U.S. House of Representatives to pass such legislation during the 113th Congress.

Although short of what is necessary to fully reform our nation’s broken immigration system, the Administration’s recently announced executive actions on immigration represent a first step in the process of fixing it. Importantly, it would prevent the separation of families, ensuring that U.S. citizens and permanent residents are not faced with losing their parents or being forced to return with them to a country in which they have never lived. Instead of traumatizing these children and young adults—the future leaders of our country—we should invest in them by ensuring that their families remain intact.

Rather than attempting to rescind the Administration’s recent executive actions on immigration, the U.S. House of Representatives should act on a comprehensive and permanent solution to our immigration challenges by passing comprehensive immigration reform legislation that addresses all aspects of our immigration system. Enactment of such a measure would supersede the recent executive actions.

In this regard, I ask that you oppose H.R. 5759 and immediately consider legislation to comprehensively address our failed immigration system. Our nation has waited too long for Congress to act on this important national issue.

Sincerely,

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Most Reverend Eusebio Elizondo
Auxiliary Bishop of Seattle
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Migration