

August 2013

Representative Fred Upton  
2183 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Upton,

As a Catholic Christian, I believe that the foundation of our nation's policy on immigration should be the words of Matthew 25:35: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

However, our current immigration system does little to welcome the immigrants among us. Though our nation has a right to secure its borders, our highly militarized border with Mexico is both inhumane and ineffective. Though we depend on the labor of immigrants to harvest our crops, process our meat, and perform other arduous tasks, we neglect to provide a path for them to reside in the US legally. Though we embrace family values, we impose complex rules that result in families being separated for years. How ironic for a nation of immigrants and descendents of immigrants.

My parish, St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church, welcomes many immigrants to our congregation. A large number of them know personally of the dangerous journey taken by so many through the Arizona wilderness. These people are not here to violate laws or unfairly exploit our nation; they are here to find jobs to support their families.

I urge you to help pass comprehensive, humane immigration reform that includes the measures listed below. Until such legislation is passed, we must stop deportation of undocumented immigrants.

- Provide a timely pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who wish to live in the US permanently.
- Provide a temporary-worker program for migrants who wish to work in the US seasonally.
- Reunite families who have been separated.
- Protect basic civil and human rights of all immigrants.
- Take steps to alleviate the poverty that drives so many of our brothers and sisters to leave their homelands.

I am praying that the House quickly passes legislation that corrects our current unjust, unwelcoming, and fragmented system of immigration laws. Thank you for your service to the people of Michigan's 6th district.

Your constituent,