



Working to Reduce Poverty in America

June 03, 2019

Dear Representative,

I write on behalf of Catholic Charities USA, the national office for 167 Catholic Charities agencies across the country, to urge Congress to work together to strengthen and improve our nation's migrant and refugee policies so they are welcoming, just and humane. The introduction of H.R. 6, the "American Dream and Promise Act of 2019," is a strong first step in meeting our country's shared commitment to a just immigration process.

Collectively, Catholic Charities agencies work to serve over 400,000 of our immigrant brothers and sisters and have over 100 years of experience serving and responding to the needs of newcomers. Each day Catholic Charities agencies witness firsthand the unique hardships faced by migrant communities, but also see the incredible contributions they continue to make to our country.

Over the past two years we have seen continued efforts to drastically change our immigration and refugee systems. Catholic Charities USA has spoken out against persecuted religious minorities being banned from our country, families separated at the border, and our ability to serve American families disrupted by shutdowns over migration-related disputes. Many of the same concerns and rhetoric heard today were echoed by earlier generations served by Catholic Charities.

We urge you to reject efforts which dehumanize those in need and instead work together for just and comprehensive policies that strengthen our immigration programs.

Bipartisan immigration reform policy should include:

- Humane support for border communities;
- Permanent legal protection and a pathway to citizenship for qualifying Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders;
- Support for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program; and,
- Cost-efficient and effective implementation in programs such as the Family Case Management Program, which allowed families who passed a credible-fear interview and were determined to be good candidates for a less-secure form of release.

Catholic Charities USA stands ready to work with Congress to show that our nation can be both humane and secure for migrants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sister Donna Markham, OP.".

Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD
President and CEO
Catholic Charities USA

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Charles Cornelio

President & CEO
Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD

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Secretary
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