



US Conference of Catholic Bishops—Elements Necessary For a Just Immigration Reform Proposal

Core elements:

- 1. Path to citizenship for the undocumented:** a program which provides an opportunity for the undocumented residing in the United States to earn permanent residency and eventual citizenship. “Earned” citizenship should be achievable and independently verifiable.¹
- 2. Future Flow Worker Program:** Worker program which includes:
 - Optional path to citizenship which is achievable/verifiable
 - Family unity which allows immediate family members to join worker²
 - Job portability which allows workers to change employers³
 - Enforcement mechanisms and resources to enforce worker’s rights⁴
 - Living-wage protections;
 - Mobility between U.S. and homeland and within U.S.;
 - Labor-market test to ensure U.S. workers are not harmed⁵
- 3. Family-Based Immigration Reform:** the family-based system should be reformed to reduce current backlogs in family categories, the allocation of unused visas, the reclassification of spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents as immediate relatives, and humanitarian consideration for families.
- 4. Restoration of Due Process Protections:** provisions which restore due process protections lost in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) which separate families, including repeal of the 3 and 10-year bars and restoration of judicial discretion in deportation proceedings. One-year filing deadline on asylum applications should be eliminated. Community-based alternatives to detention programs should be authorized.
- 5. Addressing Root Causes of Migration:** examine root causes of migration, such as lack of development in sending countries, and seek long-term solutions.
- 6. Inclusion of the DREAM Act and AgJOBS:** Two proposals addressing specific groups should be included in any reform legislation. The Development, Relief, and Education for

¹ Prospective work requirements should be achievable, preferably within 3 years at a reasonable number of days per year. QDEs and other parties should be allowed to independently verify work performed. Specific elements above should be included.

² Family members should have work authorization.

³ Workers should be able to move between industries unless bill targets specific sector.

⁴ Enforcement mechanisms should include right to bring action in federal court

⁵ USCCB does not oppose the creation of a commission on employment-based categories, but support would depend upon its scope and authority

Alien Minors Act (DREAM) would place minor undocumented students, who came to the United States with their parents, on a path to citizenship and would make them eligible for in-state tuition. The Agricultural Jobs, Opportunity, and Benefits Act (AgJOBS) would address the legal status of migrant farm workers in the United States.



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
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