



October 30, 2013

Dear Member of Congress,

As people of faith, we take seriously the Gospel call to welcome the stranger and care for those in need. As Catholic sisters we are committed to the precepts of Catholic Social Teaching which remind us that the dignity of the person is at the core of our moral vision of society; that how we organize our society affects human dignity directly; and that any system that is deliberately cruel or inhumane needs to change. The Leadership Conference of Women Religious is determined to end the suffering and injustice of our present immigration system and calls on Congress to pass bipartisan immigration reform legislation that is fair and just.

Catholic sisters began coming to these shores 286 years ago as immigrants to serve immigrant populations. To this day we continue to minister to these aspiring citizens in schools and hospitals, in the fields, and in the cities. We see the devastating effects of the brokenness of the current immigration system every day. We share the pain of mothers separated from their children and fathers who have risked their lives for love of their families.

In the face of so much suffering and injustice we must speak out. We believe the House of Representatives must act. Now is the time to fix our country's broken immigration system. Our immigrant brothers and sisters cannot wait any longer. We will not wait.

We look forward to working with members of the House of Representatives in the next few weeks to ensure that the immigration reform legislation honors the values upon which our nation was built; includes a reasonable roadmap to citizenship; prioritizes family unity; protects the rights of all; promotes the integration of new Americans; and addresses the poverty and violence that force migrants from their homes.

We promise you our prayers and hope that you will work with your colleagues to enact legislation that emphasizes compassion and God's love for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet Mock, CSJ".

Janet Mock, CSJ  
Executive Director