The Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC), a coalition of 35 national faith-based organizations, calls on the 113th Congress to reform of our broken immigration system. For more than a decade, the IIC has been working with hundreds of congregations, service providers, and faith leaders across the country to educate communities, oppose anti-immigrant legislation, and work toward humane immigration reform. In the past four years alone, the IIC network has organized more than a thousand prayer vigils, community forums, and rallies across the country in support of immigrants’ rights. As a diverse coalition, we see this as an opportunity to raise issues that should be considered as Congress moves forward with fixing our nation’s broken immigration system. The IIC calls on Congress to enact legislation that will:

Address the Causes of Migration
People of faith have witnessed firsthand the suffering caused by extreme poverty, violent conflict, political and religious persecution, and environmental destruction that prompt individuals to leave their homes in search of a better life. U.S. foreign policy must seek smart, effective ways to help reshape financial systems that unduly burden vulnerable populations – including U.S. trade policies, international financial institutions, and local economies in sending countries – toward models that support those in need.

Our faiths compel us to seek to reduce the need for people to leave their homes in order to provide for their families. Rather than current policies which undermine sustainable livelihoods in sending countries, we should invest in environmentally sustainable economic development that preserves and defends the basic human rights of all people. These policies will provide alternatives to unauthorized immigration and reduce the need for costly border enforcement, detention, and deportation.

Create a Process for Undocumented Immigrants to Earn Citizenship
Any meaningful reform of our immigration system must include a fair and generous process that allows undocumented immigrants and their families to earn lawful permanent residency with a pathway to citizenship. The workability of such a program should not be hindered by overly punitive criteria, such as mandating that immigrants leave the country or pay exorbitant fees, or by making the process conditional upon the implementation of enforcement measures. We urge members of Congress to oppose legislation that would curtail the nature of citizenship or restrict access to public benefits and child tax credits.

Keep Families Together
Families are the basic unit of strong communities. Today, thousands of families are separated by our broken immigration system and should be reunited. Backlogs at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the limited number of visas force family members to choose between being separated for extended periods of time or illegally entering the country. A fair immigration system must improve and strengthen the family immigration process by recapturing visas lost to bureaucratic delay to reduce the current backlog; reclassifying spouses and minor children of lawful permanent residents as immediate relatives; raising the per country visa limits from seven to fifteen percent of total admissions to reduce long wait times for certain nationalities; eliminating unlawful presence bars for the spouse, child, or parent of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents; admitting surviving family members of deceased family petitioners; and eliminating the cap on the total number of family-based visas available.

Enact the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act
The faith community sees the DREAM Act as vital in fixing the broken immigration system. The DREAM Act has had many iterations, and the IIC calls
on Congress to enact robust and inclusive legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for individuals brought to the United States at age 16 or younger, are currently no older than 35 years of age, and who have graduated from high school, earned a GED in the U.S, or are currently in school. In addition to college and military service criteria, the IIC urges legislators to include volunteer service as a method by which DREAMers can maintain legal status and earn citizenship. DACA recipients should automatically qualify for any legalization process, and their time with DACA status should count toward any conditional status period under the DREAM Act.

**Protect Workers’ Rights, Including Agricultural Workers**

There is a clear need to expand legal avenues for workers to migrate to the United States in a safe, authorized, and orderly manner. It is vital that these workers’ rights are fully protected, including the right to bring their families with them, travel as needed, change their place of employment, and apply for lawful permanent residency and eventually citizenship.

Enactment of AgJobs (the *Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act*) would provide a legal, stable labor force by offering undocumented farmworkers the chance to earn legal status by meeting stringent work requirements and legal obligations. AgJobs would revise the H-2A agricultural guest-worker program to help employers fill critical agricultural positions that have been difficult to fill, sustaining agricultural industries while also protecting workers’ rights.

As currently structured, the electronic employment verification (E-verify) program has proven detrimental to migrants, employers, and citizen employees. It leads to increased discrimination and unfair hiring and firing practices. For these reasons, and because we believe all workers benefit from the enforcement of health, safety, wage, and hour laws, as well as the right to peacefully organize, the IIC is opposed to the mandatory expansion of the E-verify program.

**Place Humanitarian Values at the Center of Enforcement Policies**

Enforcement policies must be made to be consistent with humanitarian values and with the need to treat all individuals with respect, while allowing the United States to identify and prevent the entry of persons who commit dangerous crimes. Over the past twenty years, the federal government has dramatically increased border fence and other infrastructure construction, border patrol presence, immigration detention, and the deportation of immigrants, without regard to cost or effectiveness. Over $10 billion of taxpayers’ money has been spent on border security. It is now time to reform the broken immigration system. To truly decrease unauthorized immigration, the United States should improve access to a fair and humane legal immigration system, increasing and improving the efficiency of ports of entry, expanding visa availability, and eliminating application backlogs.

Border security has also proven to be environmentally irresponsible on many levels. It threatens already endangered species and damages public lands and interferes with business and land owners who operate and live along the border. We have also witnessed the desecration of sacred sites and the violation of religious freedom, as well as the unnecessary anguish of community members whose loved ones have suffered or died seeking entry into the United States. Above all else, enforcement policies must treat all individuals with respect and dignity. Citizens and migrants alike have the right to a fair and humane legal immigration system that respects the dignity of all persons, prioritizes the cohesiveness of families and communities, recognizes the economic contributions of immigrants, and upholds our moral obligations to provide refuge and welcome for the sojourner.

**Protect Refugees and Migrant Survivors of Violence**

The IIC encourages Congress to make life-changing improvements to the U.S. refugee resettlement program that would help refugees integrate in their new homes in the United States. Refugees have fled persecution in their home countries due to their race, nationality, religion, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group, and the United States has a rich tradition of welcoming refugees and helping them begin new lives. Bills such as the *Refugee Protection Act, Domestic Refugee Resettlement and Modernization Act, and Strengthening Refugee Resettlement Act* include positive reforms that would not only help refugees, but provide important resources to the communities that welcome them.

The *Violence Against Women Act* (VAWA) has a long history of uniting lawmakers with the common purpose of protecting survivors of domestic violence. Congress has consistently recognized the vulnerability of non-citizen survivors of violence by enacting provisions in VAWA that enhance safety for survivors and their children and provide tools for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute crimes. In 2012, the House of Representatives passed a VAWA reauthorization bill that would undermine years of protections for immigrant victims and would actually make immigrants more vulnerable, endangering many lives. The IIC urges that any reauthorization of VAWA maintain and improve protections for migrant survivors, not weaken them.
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Rev. Karen Clark Ristine, Mission Hills United Methodist Church, San Diego, CA
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Clerk of Finance, Facilities Use, and Publications LuRetta Fairman, Sacramento Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, Sacramento, CA
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Director, Theology and Christian Leadership Program; Associate Director, Center for Equality and Justice Colleen Windham-Hughes, Ph.D., M.Div., Theology and Christian Leadership Program; Center for Equality and Justice, Thousand Oaks, CA
Rev. Nestor Gerente, Grace United Methodist Church, Long Beach, CA
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Lic. Pastor, United Church of Christ Wayne Laws, People of Faith for Social Justice, Aurora, CO
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Faith-Based Grp Henrietta Masloff, Migrant Ministry Spirit of Christ Catholic Community, Westminster, CO
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Retired Clergy George Ogle, United Methodist, Lafayette, CO
Intern Minister Sarah Oglesby-Dunegan, Boulder Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Lafayette, CO
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Rev. Dr., Director of Refugee and Immigration Ministries Sharon Stanley, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Washington, DC
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Social Action Chairperson Linda Thompson, Blue Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Rice Lake, WI

Local Congregations, Diocese, Religious Order, or Faith-Based Organization or Group:
Church of the Holy Spirit, Gadsden, AL
Greater Birmingham Ministries, Birmingham, AL
Auburn (AL) United Methodist Church, Auburn, AL
UUCB Justice Committee, Birmingham, AL
Latham United Methodist Church, Huntsville, AL
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General Mission Council, Presbytery of the Pacific PC(USA), Los Angeles, CA
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Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, Western American Province, Montebello, CA
Presbytery of San Gabriel and Presbytery of San Fernando, Pasadena, CA
Sisters of the Holy Family, Fremont, CA
CLUE-LA, Los Angeles, CA
Walking Faith Korean-American Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Sunnyvale, CA
Kehilla Community Synagogue, Berkeley, CA
Community of St. Francis, San Francisco, CA
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael, San Rafael, CA
CALPAC Immigration Task Force, Los Angeles, CA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, Orange, CA
Sisters of Providence of Terra Haute Indiana, Coachella, CA
UMC, Antelope, CA
California Province of the Society of Jesus, Los Gatos, CA
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, Sacramento, CA
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians), Arlington Heights, IL
Wellington Ave. United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL
Sisters of Providence, Chicago, IL
Saint James Cathedral, Episcopal, Chicago, IL
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, Northfield, IL
UbuntU Immigration Project, Palantine, IL
Euclid Ave. UMC, Oak Park, IL
Sisters of the Living Word, Palatine, IL
Roselle United Methodist Church, Roselle, IL
Chicago New Sanctuary Coalition, Chicago, IL
First United Methodist, Normal, IL
Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist Church, Carol Stream, IL
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Fort Wayne, IN
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, Huntington, IN
U.M.C. Brown St.Centro Familia Cristiano, Lafayette, IN
Winamac First United Methodist Church, Winamac, IN
Area of North America Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame, IN
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee, South Bend, IN
First Presbyterian Church of Jeffersonville, Jeffersonville, IN
United Methodist, Fort Wayne, IN
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Leavenworth, KS
Congregation of St. Joseph, Wichita, KS
Hispanic/Latino Commission of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery, Louisville, KY
Presbytery of Mid-Kentucky, Louisville, KY
One Horizon Institute, Lexington, KY
Presbyterian Church, Louisville, KY
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Central Leadership, Nazareth, KY
Wesley Chapel, Homer, LA
Church of the Covenant, Boston, MA
Seth Christian Ministry, Springfield, MA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Boston, Milton, MA
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield, Springfield, MA
St. Matthews UMC, Bowie, MD
UUCC of Augusta Maine, Manchester, ME
Unitarian Universalist, Brunswick, ME
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary, Detroit, MI
UU Church, Houghton, MI
Justice Team of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Detroit, MI
First United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MI
United Methodist Church, Grand Rapids, MI
Leadership Council of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, MI
Sisters of Mary Reparatrix, Riverview, MI
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Adrian, MI
Secular Franciscans, Allen Park, MI
Newburg UMC / Justice for Our Neighbors Southeastern Michigan, Livonia, MI
Adrian First United Methodist Church, Adrian, MI
Servants of Jesus, Dearborn Heights, MI
NWUU church / MUUSJN, Detroit, MI
The United Methodist Church, Ypsilanti, MI
Simpson Center for Servant Ministries, Minneapolis, MN
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN
NE MN Synod ELCA Task Force on Immigration, Duluth, MN
Twin Ports Ministry to Seafarers, McGregor, MN
Gospel Justice Committee--Sisters of the Most Precious Blood of O'Fallon, MO
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, Ballwin, MO
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Central Pacific Province Immigration Committee, St. Louis, MO
Precious Blood Sisters, St. Louis, MO
Adorers of the Blood of Christ, US Region, St. Louis, MO
The House of God Which is the Church of the Living Pentecostal of Missouri, St. Louis, MO
Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, Presbyterian Church (USA), St. Louis, MO
AJC, St. Louis Regional Office, St. Louis, MO
Red Lodge Community Church, Red Lodge, MT
Shepherd's House United Methodist Church, Durham, NC
North Carolina Council of Churches, Raleigh, NC
United Methodist Church, Winston Salem, NC
United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC
Meroney UMC, Bear Creek, NC
NC Conference of the United Methodist Church, Durham, NC
United Methodist, Shelby, NC
The United Methodist Church, Raleigh, NC
Presbyterian Church USA, Charlotte, NC
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Community, Omaha, NE
Creighton University, Omaha, NE
Cairo & Boelus United Methodist Congregations, Cairo, NE
United Methodist, Bellevue, NE
Our Lady of the Angels Region of the Secular Franciscan Order, West Caldwell, NJ
Oasis UMC, Pleasantville, NJ
AJC New Jersey, Millburn, NJ
Greater New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church, Mansfield, NJ
Interfaith Worker Justice - New Mexico, Santa Fe, NM
El Buen Samaritano UMC, Albuquerque, NM
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, New York, NY
Thiells UMC, Thiells, NY
Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, N. Merrick, NY
AJC NY, New York, NY
Little Sisters of the Assumption JPIC Provincial Commission, USA, New York, NY
Western New York Regional Peace and Justice Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Buffalo, NY
Sisters of Saint Joseph, Buffalo, NY
Daughters of Wisdom USA Province, Islip, NY
St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Middletown, NY
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, Rochester, NY
Maryland, New England, and New York Provinces of the Society of Jesus, New York, NY
Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Binghamton, NY
Dominican Sisters, Sparkill, NY
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester, Inc, Rochester, NY
The United Methodist Church, Avon, OH
AJC, Cincinnati, OH
Wagram UMC, Reynoldsburg, OH
Crossroads UMC, Columbus, OH
The Leadership Team of the Congregation of St. Joseph, Cleveland, OH
American Jewish Committee--Cincinnati Regional Office, Cincinnati, OH
Justice Action Ministry, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, Columbus, OH
Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Cincinnati, OH
Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, Tiffin, OH
Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition, Toledo, OH
Justice & Peace Committee/Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur/Ohio Unit, Cincinnati, OH
Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH
JPIC Network, Sisters of St. Francis, Sylvania, OH
United Methodist, Lebanon, OH
Community Organizing Center, Columbus, OH
West Ohio Conference United Methodist Church, Worthington, OH
Arkansas Conference United Methodist Church, Reynoldsburg, OH
United Methodist Church, Muskogee, OK
First United Methodist, Cushing, OK
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, Portland, OR
Cal-Pac UMC  Hillsboro, OR
Oregon-Idaho Chapter Methodist Federation for Social Action, West Linn, OR
Canadenis United Methodist Church, Canadenis, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston, PA
United Methodist Church, Pittsburgh, PA
Sisters of St. Joseph-Baden, Baden, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Pittsburgh, PA
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA
St. Philip's United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA
United Methodist Church, Philadelphia, PA
Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus - USA Province, Haverford, PA
IHM. Immaculata, Springfield, PA
Sisters of the Holy Redeemer, Huntingdon Valley, PA
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, PA
Felician Sisters of North America Leadership Team, Beaver Falls, PA
Catholic Coalition for Justice & Peace, Philadelphia, PA
United Methodist, Allentown, PA
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Aston, PA
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia, PA
American Jewish Committee -- Philadelphia/Southern New Jersey, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of Mercy Midatlantic Community, Norristown, PA
Pennsylvania Council of Churches, Harrisburg, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Pittsburgh, PA
El Buen Samaritano UMC, West Chester, PA
United Church of Christ, Lancaster, PA
St. Vincent de Paul Church, Philadelphia, PA
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Philadelphia, PA
Augustinians, Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Villanova, PA
Christ United Methodist Church, Easton, PA
S.C. Annual Conference, Anderson, SC
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, North Augusta, SC
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry, Bluffton, SC
Hermitage United Methodist Church, Hermitage, TN
Dalewood United Methodist Church, Nashville, TN
61st Avenue United Methodist, Nashville, TN
americanfamiliesunited.org, Kileen, TX
La Trinida United Methodist Church, San Antonio, TX
Northaven UMC, Dallas, TX
Sugar Land First United Methodist Church, Sugar Land, TX
Movimiento del Valle Por los Derechos Humanos, Brownsville, TX
Justice For Our Neighbors DFW, Grapevine, TX
Dominican Sisters of Houston, Houston, TX
St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX
Sisters of the Holy Spirit, San Antonio, TX
Unitarian Universalist Church, San Antonio, TX
United Methodist, Bedford, TX
Wimberley United Methodist Church, Wimberley, TX
United Methodist Church Rio Grande Conference, Waco, TX
Acton United Methodist, Granbury, TX
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Sugar Land, TX
St. Matthew United Methodist Church, Amarillo, TX
Holy Cross Ministries of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
St. Charles Borromeo Church, Arlington, VA
Holy Family CC, Dale City, VA
African Evangelical Ministries-PCUSA, Richmond, VA
United Methodist Church, Abingdon, VA
Tacoma Community House, Tacoma, WA
Adrian Dominican Sisters, Seattle, WA
Episcopal Diocese of Olympia, Seattle, WA
Bethany Presbyterian, Spokane, WA
UMC, Tacoma, WA
Wisconsin United Methodist Conference, Milwaukee, WI
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross, Merrill, WI
Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes, Fond du Lac, WI
Sinsinawa Dominicans, Sinsinawa, WI
Racine Dominican Sisters, Racine, WI
Servite Sisters, Ladysmith, WI
Wisconsin Society of Jesus (Jesuits), Milwaukee, WI
Justice & Peace Office, Midwest Capuchin Franciscans, Milwaukee, WI

National Denomination or National Faith-Based Organization:
General Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church, Los Angeles, CA
National Association of Filipino American United Methodists, Los Angeles, CA
Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Oakland, CA
Alliance of Baptists, Washington, DC
Anti-Defamation League, Washington, DC
Jesuit Conference, Washington, DC
Jesuit Refugee Service/USA, Washington, DC
Missionary Oblates Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office, Washington, DC
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Washington, DC
Justice For Our Neighbors, Orlando, FL
Freedom is a Gift of God, Tucher, GA
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Dubuque, IA
The Interfaith Alliance of Idaho, Boise, ID
8th Day Center for Justice, Chicago, IL
Franciscan Action Network, Indianapolis, IN
Sisters of the Holy Cross Congregation Justice Committee, South Bend, IN
PCUSA, Louisville, KY
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership, Nazareth, KY
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, College Park, MD
Irish Apostolate USA, Silver Spring, MD
Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Towson, MD
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Silver Spring, MD
Christian Reformed Church Office of Social Justice, Grand Rapids, MI
Peace and Hope International, Minneapolis, MN
Franciscan Sisters of the Neumann Communities, Syracuse, NY
United Methodist Women, New York City, NY
Catholic Migrant Farmworker Network, Canton, OH
American Baptist Home Mission Societies, King of Prussia, PA
American Friends Service Committee, Philadelphia, PA
Standing on the Side of Love, Pittsburgh, PA
United Methodist Church, Arlington, VA
Annandale United Methodist Church, Annandale, VA
VA Annual Conference, Richmond, VA
Catholic Charities USA, Alexandria, VA