

Dear Members of Congress,

The House will vote on two immigration bills this week that have been touted as solutions to challenges within the U.S. immigration system. Yet both bills fail to meet the Interfaith Immigration Coalition's shared faithful objective to protect immigrant youth while honoring the core tenets of human dignity and family unity. In fact, these bills would harm immigrant families and endanger children.

The Interfaith Immigration Coalition urges Members of Congress to reject H.R. 4760, The Securing America's Future Act, and Speaker Ryan's Border Security and Immigration Reform Act. Both proposals fail to meet the IIC's [principles](#) for immigration and border reform. They undermine family unity and family-based immigration, protections for unaccompanied children, and access to due process and justice.

Some have claimed these proposals will end family separation; they will not. So long as the administration [chooses](#) to criminally prosecute 100% of parents, their children will still be taken away or harmfully detained. This practice is [traumatizing](#) and has been renounced by our faith traditions, [leaders](#), and communities. We urge members of Congress to pressure the administration to end its policy of separating families immediately as well as stop criminally prosecuting and detaining parents and asylum seekers.

Our shared [platform](#) is rooted in interfaith principles, which call us to ensure that our laws promote and protect the dignity of each individual. We look for policies that:

1. Prioritize family unity,
2. Create a process that leads to legal status and citizenship,
3. Improve access to the legal immigration system,
4. Protect all workers and reduce exploitation,
5. Emphasize community safety,
6. Protect human rights in enforcement practices and border policies,
7. Ensure prosecutorial discretion,
8. Reform detention policies,
9. Protect vulnerable populations in the U.S. and abroad, and
10. Facilitate immigrant and refugee integration.

Strong, faithful communities rely on our ability to welcome the stranger and recognize the human dignity of each person. Compassionate immigration reforms would help heal our communities and our nation. Congress should invest in long-term solutions rather than endless enforcement. Any immigration proposal meant to be a solution for Dreamers must meet these criteria of a compassionate solution.

We urge members of Congress to work with each other in a truly bipartisan manner and to work with immigrant and border communities to find the best, permanent solution for undocumented youth. As we work toward these real solutions, let us together build a future that values the unity of all families, protects the safety of all communities, and brings people together rather than tearing them apart.

Sincerely,

Members of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition