



This month we share with you a letter from the Rob Shelledey, Director of Catholic Social Action for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

Please note the time sensitive nature of this issue – your response is needed this week.



May 11, 2007

Dear Social Justice Advocates,

It is very important that you contact Senators Kohl and Feingold's offices and ask them to continue to support comprehensive immigration reform. The pace has quickened substantially and two important votes will take place next week. Please call their offices and ask them to vote yes on the motion to proceed and to vote yes for cloture in support of comprehensive immigration reform (more explanation of this below). Their numbers are:

Senator Kohl Phone: 414-297-4451 Toll Free: 800-247-5645 (WI only)

Senator Feingold Phone: 414-276-7282

As many of you know, over the past several months a bipartisan group of Senators, along with the White House staff, has been negotiating compromise immigration reform legislation. In addition, two House members, a Republican and a Democrat, introduced the Security through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act of 2007 (STRIVE Act) in the House.

Most observers have thought the Senate would pass some legislation in the spring with the House passing legislation in early summer. A conference committee would work on reconciling the two bills with a final vote in early fall. The thinking is that anything later would be too late, as the focus would turn to the election of 2008, especially the Presidential election. In addition, there are several other pieces of legislation that need to pass in 2007, the reauthorization of the Farm Bill and the President's Emergency Fund for AIDS Relief not to mention the budget.



The Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has decided to bring the issue to a head in the Senate by bringing to the floor the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (CIRA, S. 2611) of 2006, which passed the Senate in May of 2006, 62-36. In effect, this bill would be a placeholder and Senators would amend the bill during the floor debate.

Two important procedural votes need to take place in order to bring this bill to floor and each of these need 60 votes to pass. The first is a motion to proceed and the second is for cloture.

Reid's move is designed to pressure Republicans to cut a deal or risk being blamed for undermining one. Reid is seeking to pressure those 20 current Senate Republicans who voted for S. 2611 last session into voting yes on the motion to proceed and for cloture.

For more information, please visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org