

Dear Representative:

We, the undersigned Catholic organizations, write to express our opposition to H.R. 4088, the Secure America through Verification and Enforcement (SAVE) Act of 2007.

The legislation, introduced by Representative Heath Shuler (D-NC) and Representative Tom Tancredo (R-CO), would initiate several enforcement-related actions in both the interior of the country and along the southern border.

It is our view that an enforcement-only approach to immigration reform is likely to fail without changes to the U.S. legal immigration system. An enforcement-only bill would drive undocumented immigrants and their families further underground, creating a hidden society of persons without full rights in their communities. It also would strengthen the operation of unscrupulous smuggling networks that cater to desperate migrants looking for work in the United States.

While we may not oppose some version of the provisions of H.R. 4088 in the context of a broader immigration reform measure, we oppose them in an enforcement-only bill. The most effective way to secure our borders and restore the rule of law to our immigration system is through comprehensive immigration reform, which includes providing legal status to undocumented persons in our country.

We ask that you strongly oppose H.R. 4088 and encourage the leadership of the House of Representatives and your colleagues to turn to the consideration of comprehensive immigration reform as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Catholic Charities USA
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Catholic Relief Services
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Irish Apostolate USA
National Council of Catholic Women
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops