



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

March 9, 2021

The Honorable Bob Menendez
Chair, Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate

Dear Sen. Menendez:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I would like to thank you for introducing the U.S. Citizenship Act of 2021 and express our support for this legislation.

The social doctrine of the Catholic Church teaches that each person is created in the image of God; that each human life is sacred and possesses inalienable worth; and that health care is essential to promoting and protecting the inherent dignity of every individual. The Catholic health ministry, as stated in our *Vision for U.S. Health Care*, further reaffirms our call to pay special attention to the needs of the poor and the vulnerable, those most likely to lack access to health care, in our journey towards affordable, accessible health care for all. This commitment is why Catholic health care has strongly supported efforts to bring all immigrants regardless of status more fully into our society.

Your legislation would help move our nation further toward that goal by offering a pathway to citizenship for approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants, with an expedited pathway for those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) programs. The legislation also contains provisions to bolster family-based immigration and supports asylum seekers and other vulnerable populations with increased protections. We also commend the legislation for its efforts to address the root causes of migration of those from Central America fleeing extreme poverty and violence, as well as efforts to improve the conditions and standards of care for families and children at the U.S. border. Such a comprehensive approach is absolutely essential to ensuring that our U.S. immigration system is as just and equitable as possible.

Again, we thank you for introducing the U.S. Citizenship Act and we look forward to working with you and all members of Congress in efforts to support this and other bills to offer much needed protections for undocumented immigrants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO