



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

June 27, 2013

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I urge you to vote in favor of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

CHA is founded upon a tradition of helping the poorest and most vulnerable among us, including immigrants. Together with our partners in the Catholic and other faith-based communities, we have long endorsed comprehensive immigration reform. We remain particularly concerned about the options that immigrants with registered provisional status under S. 744 will have for access to affordable health care. Because of this concern, CHA supported amendments to the legislation that would extend health coverage to immigrant pregnant women and children and ensure that immigrants will not face overly lengthy waits for federal health coverage during and after the provisional status. We are disappointed that these amendments were not adopted, and remain hopeful that they will be included in a final version of the legislation.

Nevertheless, we continue to support S. 744 and urge its passage as the best option available for real, comprehensive immigration reform. Above all, we are pleased that S. 744 provides an achievable and accessible path to citizenship that includes as many persons as possible. The path to citizenship is an essential factor not only in our support but in that of so many others who have sought comprehensive immigration reform. We are pleased that the Senate bill retains this vital measure and will seek to ensure its preservation as the legislative process continues.



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Thank you, and if anyone at CHA can be of further assistance to you on this matter please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC  
President and CEO