



## VOP ACTION ALERT!

(2007-June-03)

### PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SENATORS!

**Background:** On Thursday, May 17, 2007, Democratic and Republican senators announced a compromise immigration proposal, the Secure Borders, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Reform Act of 2007.

In a statement released May 17, Bishop Gerald Barnes, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration, expressed "significant" reservations with the legislation, citing problems with the legalization program of Title VI, the temporary worker program in Title IV, and family reunification in Title V. He stated that the U.S. bishops would work to make changes in these areas.

### **ACTION:**

The U.S. Senate is considering the measure on the Senate floor the week of June 4, 2007.

Senate bill S. 1348 as written does not protect families. Ask your Senator to support and vote for amendments to the legislation that would strengthen family unity in our immigration system. Amendments to strengthen families will be offered by Senators Menendez, Clinton, and Obama during the floor debate this week.

There also will be amendments offered by Senators Kerry and Lieberman that would protect the rights of immigrants. Senator Kerry will offer an amendment to ensure due process rights for immigrants impacted by enforcement raids. Senator Lieberman will offer an amendment to improve detention standards for asylum-seekers. Please ask your Senator to support these amendments.

At the same time ask your senator to oppose amendments that would limit eligibility for the Z visa legalization program offered by Senators Cornyn and Sessions, as well as to oppose an amendment offered by Senator Inhofe to make English the official language of the United States.

It is important that S. 1348 is improved so that families are protected and due process protections are preserved. In addition, the Z visa legalization program should not be weakened by limiting eligibility for the program.

Please email, fax or call your Senators today

**Sen. Jon Kyl**

(202) 224-2207 D.C. office  
(602) 840-1891 (Phoenix office)  
<http://kyl.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

**Sen. John McCain**

(202) 224-2235 D.C. office  
(602) 952-2410 (Phoenix office)  
[http://mccain.senate.gov//contact/index.cfm?  
ID=64](http://mccain.senate.gov//contact/index.cfm?ID=64)

Thank you

VOP and Justice for Immigrants (The Catholic Campaign for Immigration Reform)