



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

August 6, 2021

The Honorable Senator Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Graham:

I write at this crucial moment to express my support for immigration reform. I ask you to work toward the enactment of immigration reform legislation this year that includes legalization and a path to citizenship for Dreamers, Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders, seasonal agricultural workers, and other undocumented essential workers. I further urge you not to enact provisions that would jeopardize family immigration, roll back existing protections for vulnerable migrants, or impose harsh measures that would deprive migrants of due process.

Dreamers, TPS/DED holders and seasonal agricultural workers are integral members of this country and her communities, but many, even those living in the United States for a decade or more, are unable to fully integrate as permanent residents and citizens. They pay billions of dollars in local, state, and federal taxes. Many serve the United States in the various branches of the Armed Forces, while others work as educators, health care professionals, and in supply-chain industries. They are essential to our nation — we cannot persist in relegating them to the margins.

H.R. 6 can provide permanent protection with a path to citizenship for people who have contributed to our society and know the United States as their only home. Many barriers and shortcomings in our immigration system continue to have negative impacts on families and communities. It is a Christian and fundamental principle that families are the building blocks of society, and we flourish only when all our families given the opportunity to do so.

On behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Charleston and the thousands of faithful statewide whom I serve, I implore you to work toward comprehensive legislative reform of our immigration laws. Please give your full support for enactment of immigration reform legislation this year that will allow our Dreamers, TPS/DED holders, seasonal agricultural workers, and other essential workers to integrate as fully recognized members of our society.

Thank you for your service to our country and the great state of South Carolina.

In the Lord's Peace,

Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo, DD
Bishop of Charleston