



July 11... Alert on Immigration

What's Happening?

After two days of lengthy meetings among the legislative leaders and Gov. Rauner, the state Senate approved the final piece of the stopgap budget package in just enough time to beat a July 1 deadline. Without a budget approved by July 1, Illinois would have entered a full year without a spending and revenue plan. That would have been devastating for schools around the state, for road construction and capital projects, public universities and for the many social service agencies that have already suffered shattering cuts. The main appropriations bill, SB 2047, restores funding for the Immigrant Services Line Item (ISLI), which provides resources for the New Americans Initiative citizenship program and the Immigrant Family Resource Program, which assists immigrant families with language access and self-sufficiency support. ISLI has funded 60 community-based organizations that have provided direct services to over 1 million immigrants throughout the state. However, while this deal is greatly appreciated, it is only a six-month stopgap. We will need to keep working to make sure that these programs continue beyond December, and that the overall budget situation is resolved in a responsible way.

(Adapted from ICIRR)

Last Friday, Gov. Rauner signed HB 5736 "Covering All-Kids." The program extends health coverage for 41,000 low-income children including immigrant children in Illinois. Prior to passage of HB5736, 'Covering All Kids' was to sunset July 1, 2016. HB5736 extends the program to October 1, 2019. Thank you to all the legislative leaders for supporting All-Kids.

(Adapted from Healthy IL Campaign)

Action One: Prayer

May we, as people of faith, welcome to our communities those who are foreign-born. We pray to the Lord...

In yesterday's Gospel, the Samaritan had mercy on the one beaten by robbers. May we follow Christ's command with mercy toward immigrants and refugees. We pray to the Lord...

That leaders of our country may work together for just immigration laws. We pray to the Lord...

God, our Father, gives us our daily bread. May we be generous in providing for the needs of refugees in the U.S. and throughout the world. We pray to the Lord...

That children who come into our country, fleeing from violence, may find a welcome place of safety. We pray to the Lord...

(Adapted from Prayers of the Faithful for Immigrants by Br. Jim Zabransky, SVD)

Action Two: Calls/Letters

Any day now the US Senate could take up a bill that would force local police departments to cooperate with ICE. Under this bill (S 3100), sponsored by Sen. Pat Toomey, communities would not be able to craft their own policies to ensure that immigrants and their families can trust their police departments to report crimes. If this bill were to become law, Illinois communities could lose tens of millions of dollars in crucial federal support.

The Senate could also take up a bill by Sen. Ted Cruz (S 2193) that would further criminalize immigrants who re-enter the US – even though as many as half of these immigrants have US-born children here, and even though such penalties do not deter reentries, waste taxpayer resources, and feed the for-profit prison industry.

Please call Senator Kirk TODAY and urge him to oppose the Toomey and Cruz immigration bills.

Chicago office: 312 886-3506 ; Washington DC office: 202-224-285

Call your US Senators & Tell Them to Oppose Anti-Sanctuary City Bill!

Sample Script: " I'm (name) from (city or county) and I'm calling to ask the Senator to oppose S.3100, the "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act" and other anti-immigrant proposals. This bill turns local police into immigrant enforcement agents. As a person of faith, I expect the Senator to stand with our communities and against politicians who want to separate immigrant families and spread fear using our tax dollars."

Demand a Stay of Removal for Mother in Sanctuary, Hilda Ramirez:

<https://grassrootsleadership.ourpowerbase.net/civCRM/petition/sign?sid=31&reset=1&%3Bqid=538242>

Organizational Sign-On Letter in Support of ACA-DACA: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1HzCoP9aMvqy-5IJYGNrv5UrhRIDRlhhHmTvzic3_xms/viewform?c=0&w=1

President Obama: No Human Being is Illegal! <http://act.presente.org/sign/potus/?t=3&akid=1468.498104.Wmn25q>

Tell President Obama it's Time for a Moratorium on Deportations:

http://act.credoaction.com/sign/DAPA_Obama?t=2&akid=18660.8488121.MWgmE1

Tell Pres. Obama and DHS that if there's no DAPA then they should put a freeze on deportations:

<https://action.mijente.net/petitions/no-dapa-no-deportations/>

Action Three: Education

Immigrants Disappointed in SC Split, Vow to Continue Fight: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-supreme-court-immigration-chicago-met-20160623-story.html>

Central American Refugees' Blood is on Obama's Hands:

<http://www.heraldtribune.com/article/20160627/COLUMNIST/160629650>

Justice Dept. Reviewing Supreme Court Immigration Decision: <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-court-immigration-idUSKCN0ZE2X5>

NPR Story: U.S. Churches Offer Safe Haven for New Generation of Immigrants:

<http://www.npr.org/2016/02/09/466145280/u-s-churches-offer-safe-haven-for-a-new-generation-of-migrants>

Action Four: Events/Resources

Come See the Nuns on the Bus in IL! (View Schedule here: <https://networklobby.org/bus2016/events/>)

Site Visit: Tuesday, July 12, 4:00 PM at YWCA McLean County (1201 N Hershey Rd. Bloomington, IL)

Caucus to Mend the Gaps: Tuesday, July 12, 7:00 PM at Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal (1613 E Emerson St. Bloomington, IL 61701)

Rally: Wednesday, July 13, 9:00 AM at IL State Capitol, Lincoln Statue (301 South 2nd St. Springfield, IL)

Action Five: Social Media

Sample Tweet: .@SENATOR, Our community welcomes #immigrants. OPPOSE S.3100, the so-called "Stop Dangerous Sanctuary Cities Act"

Thank you for your efforts!