



## United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of Government Liaison

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# U.S. Catholic Bishops Urge Senate Support for Family Reunification Amendments to S. 1348

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops strongly urges senators to vote **FOR** the following family reunification amendments to S. 1348, Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007:

- Menendez/Hagel Backlog Reduction Amendment. The Menendez/Hagel amendment would bring equity to the backlog reduction contained in the substitute amendment to S. 1348 by establishing the same cut-off date for backlog reduction visas as is contained in the substitute for legalizing undocumented aliens. Unless amended by Menendez/Hagel, the substitute amendment would kick all relatives of U.S. citizens and permanent resident aliens who filed petitions after May of 2005 for family reunification visas out of line, thus providing better treatment to undocumented aliens than would be given to persons who have followed the law.
- Dodd Parents of U.S. Citizens Amendment. The Dodd amendment would mitigate the damage done to parents of U.S. citizens by the substitute amendment. It would do this by increasing from 40,000 to 90,000 the number of such parents who can be admitted to the United States each year as permanent residents. Under current law, there are an unlimited number of such parents who can immigrate to the United States each year.
- Clinton/Hagel Spouses and Unmarried Children Amendment. The Clinton/Hagel amendment would categorize spouses and unmarried children (under the age of 21) of legal permanent resident aliens as “immediate relatives.” This would ensure that longterm residents in the United States have the opportunity to reunite with their immediate family members.
- Menendez/Obama Sunset Amendment. The Menendez/Obama sunset amendment would sunset the new, untested and little-considered point system provision in the substitute amendment to S. 1348 after five years in order to enable lawmakers to assess whether the consequences of the experimental program are unacceptable and warrant a return to the existing family- and employment-sponsored preference systems.