

ALL SAINTS CHURCH

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October 25, 2013

Dear Members of the Pasadena City Council:

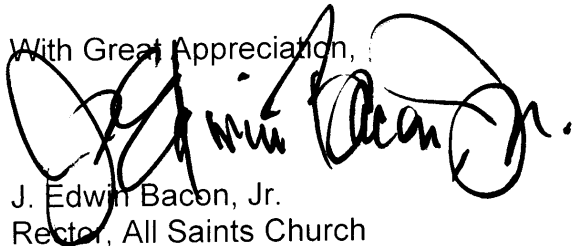
CITY CLERK

On behalf of the Vestry and members of All Saints Church, I would like express our whole-hearted support for the *Resolution of the City Council Supporting a Humane and Comprehensive Immigration Reform*, as recommended to you for consideration by the City's Legislative Policy Committee, and which is coming before you for a vote on Monday, October 28, 2013. At All Saints Church we have been actively engaged with other faith partners and advocacy organizations in calling on Congress to enact comprehensive, just, and humane immigration reform for many years. In 2008, the All Saints Church Vestry, our church's decision-making body, passed such a resolution for comprehensive immigration reform, and this document has since guided our efforts on this critical humanitarian and social issue. Our resolution is included here for your reference.

The impact of our broken immigration system is disproportionately felt regionally and locally—nearly 1 million undocumented immigrants reside in Los Angeles County. One in five children in Los Angeles County have at least one undocumented parent. As the proposed city resolution before you well indicates, Pasadena is a city with a significant immigrant population, with over a third of its residents being foreign-born. Immigrant families live, work, worship and play alongside the rest of us in this great city. Our city and faith communities are enriched by the presence of these families economically, socially, and culturally. However many of them still live as second-class citizens, as they lack full access to all aspects of our democratic, social, and economic institutions.

While the passing of comprehensive immigration reform is a federal decision, it would be a powerful statement of support and solidarity for the city of Pasadena to acknowledge the plight of the many immigrant families within its city boundaries, and would contribute to current national efforts to make reform a reality in this legislative term.

With Great Appreciation,



J. Edwin Bacon, Jr.
Rector, All Saints Church

10/28/2013
Item 17

We are, all of us, in some sense immigrants and sojourners, strangers in a strange land seeking a homeland. Some of us or members of our families have personally experienced hardships and, at times, unspeakable indignities, in coming to America. Others of us fortunate to have been born here have trekked into the desert wilderness to see for ourselves the migrant path of tears and triumph. We felt the sand beneath our feet. We saw the abandoned water bottles and children's backpacks amid the cactus thorns. We listened to their stories. We touched the cold steel of border walls. We prayed in the presence of border guards. Now, we are once again called by Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves. As a people of faith committed to dismantling oppressive systems and building structures and communities that reflect God's compassion and justice, we must do no less than make straight a highway in the desert for our sisters and brothers.

RESOLUTION ON COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

Adopted by the Vestry of All Saints Church, Pasadena, on October 7, 2008

Whereas, the Holy Scriptures make known to us that we are created "in the image of God" (Genesis 1:26-27) and that one of our great commandments from Jesus is to "Love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12:28-31);"

Whereas, the Vision Statement of All Saints Church calls on us to "embody the inclusive love of God in Christ through Spirituality, Community and Peace & Justice;"

Whereas, All Saints Church is committed to dismantling oppressive systems and to building structures and communities that reflect God's compassion and justice;

Whereas, All Saints Church participated in the Sanctuary Movement during the 1980s in solidarity with Central American immigrant refugees fleeing their war-torn countries of origin;

Whereas, the current immigration system is broken and the crisis continues to worsen with increased enforcement-only actions such as workplace raids and border militarization;

Now, Therefore be it resolved that the Vestry of All Saints Church urges the President and Congress to adopt comprehensive immigration reforms that promote a more humane immigration system consistent with our faith and values and that include the following:

1. A clear and workable path to citizenship for immigrants already in the U.S.
2. Reforms in the family-based immigration system which promote family reunification and reduce the waiting times for separated families
3. Legal protections and due process rights for all persons and labor protections for all workers regardless of immigration status
4. Reforms to eliminate existing barriers to naturalization and reduce the backlog in the naturalization process; and

Now, Therefore be it resolved that the Vestry of All Saints Church calls on the Parish to:

1. Participate in educational events and forums, such as those developed by the All Saints Immigration Task Force, partner ministries, and community allies, to learn about the plight of immigrants, to listen to people's experiences of enforcement and its impact on their lives and families, to learn about the root causes of migration, and to discuss long-term solutions to the immigration crisis both in the U.S. and abroad; and
2. Join the parish Immigration Task Force and community-wide organizations in supporting vigils, fasts, marches and advocacy campaigns for comprehensive immigration reform, and provide pastoral support and assistance to immigrants with special needs, such as those who cannot support their families, are ineligible for government-funded services, seek protection from detention and deportation, or whose parents or spouse have been detained or deported due to their unlawful immigration status.

Background

As a church and as a nation we are confronted by a humanitarian crisis, where human anguish, oppression, inhospitality, and the deaths of thousands betray our highest ideals as people of faith and citizens of the United States.

At the heart of this crisis are immigration laws, which understandably seek to enhance border security in a time of transnational criminal enterprises and terrorism, but fail to offer a timely, workable and legal framework so that millions of hard working and honest immigrants residing in the U.S. may remain in the U.S. legally without fear of deportation, and others may enter legally to live, work, and contribute to the U.S. economy. Meanwhile, global economics and unfair trade policies continue to push people out of their homelands and pull them into another.

Absent comprehensive immigration reform, narrowly drawn immigration laws which seek to respond to fears but not to human hopes are self-defeating. History teaches and our faith proclaims that the human spirit will not forever be bound by walls, whether those of cold steel and razor wire, or those which hobble the human heart. Desperation born of abject poverty and injustice abroad dares to hope. Love seeks to reunite families separated by the need of a provider to earn their daily bread, or splintered by imprisonment and deportation for those who are caught.

It is a costly hope.

It is a costly love.

Since 1994, when the U.S. stepped up security more than 4,000 migrant men, women and children have died crossing the U.S-Mexico border. The Government Accountability Office—the watchdog agency of the United States Congress—has reported that by 2005, annual deaths had doubled to 472. By comparison, the number of people killed trying to cross the communist-era Berlin Wall between 1961 and 1989 was an estimated 263, of which 125 were confirmed by researchers. When people do get across, their journey is far from over as they encounter a world full of alienation and uncertainty. Lacking legal recourse or labor protections, many undocumented workers go to work each day fearing a workplace raid, and come home with the threat of ICE agents knocking on their door. This fear is magnified for LGBT immigrants, who face discrimination and lack of protection on multiple fronts.

As people of faith, we must choose a different path. We will choose to love at all costs. We will say no more to the deaths at the border, and no more to the fear of living in the shadows.

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.

27TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONTRACTING AND WORKFORCE



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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 25, 2013

City of Pasadena
100 N. Garfield Ave.,
Pasadena, CA 91109

RE: Support for the City of Pasadena's Resolution on Immigration Reform

Dear Mayor and Councilmembers:

I write in support of the Resolution that is before the Pasadena City Council today, which recognizes the need and importance of comprehensive immigration reform. I strongly believe that all Americans who love this country deserve a common sense immigration process, one that includes a clear roadmap for people who aspire to be citizens.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, which has jurisdiction over immigration reform, passing a comprehensive immigration bill that keeps families together and includes a clear roadmap to citizenship is one of my top priorities. This is why I joined four of my Democratic colleagues to introduce H.R. 15, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. This bill combines the bipartisan bill that passed the Senate earlier this year with a border protection bill that passed unanimously in the House Homeland Security Committee. Over 180 Democratic members have signaled their support for comprehensive immigration reform by cosponsoring our bill.

This bill is by no means perfect. Like any compromise, we lost good provisions to the give and take of negotiations. But we cannot allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the Senate bill would reduce our deficits by \$850 billion, and improve Social Security's short- and long-term solvency. The economic benefits are coupled with the human impact of finally creating an immigration system that does not keep families apart or push bright minds away.

We waited three long decades to reform our immigration laws. The time to act is now. I urge the passage of the Resolution and commend the Pasadena City Council for its leadership in recognizing the importance of restoring one of our nation's founding principles – to leave our country better off not just for the next generation, but also for our newcomers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judy Chu".

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.

Member of Congress, 27th District, California

October 28, 2013

**City of Pasadena, Mayor Bill Bogaard and City Council
Pasadena City Hall Council Chambers - Room 247
100 N. Garfield Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91109**

**Re: Comprehensive Immigration Reform Resolution
Position: SUPPORT**

Dear Mayor Bogaard and Pasadena City Council Members,

We the undersigned community organizations, representing a broad sector of the city of Pasadena are urging the City of Pasadena to voice its support of humane immigration reform. Each of us has been involved in the national efforts to urge Congress to overhaul our broken immigration system. It is in this spirit and because of the work we have done and the community members we serve that we urge the council to support a city resolution authored by Vice Mayor Jacque Robinson, urging Congress to enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The city will join other localities including our state on calling on the federal government to enact immigration reform this year.

Our current immigration system is broken, antiquated and does not meet the challenges of the 21st century. It separates families, creates long backlogs for families who are seeking reunification. Further, it neglects the hard work and financial contributions immigrants make to our country. Since 2008 close to 2 million immigrants have been deported, and one in every ten American children faces the threat of deportation of a parent. This system is tearing our families and communities apart.

While it is estimated that about 11 million undocumented immigrants are in the United States, California has the largest population of immigrants, both legal and undocumented. Los Angeles County alone is home to nearly 1 million undocumented immigrants and 20 percent of children in Los Angeles County have at least one undocumented parent.

The economic benefits of supporting a comprehensive solution with a pathway to citizenship are great. Citizens go on to become successful small business owners, providing jobs and revenue in their communities. Citizens also on average have higher rates of income than non-citizens and access to "good jobs." All of these things help our communities grow.

We urge you to support this resolution. The Resolution is simply a call to action to congress to act this year. It is a call for Congress to find a solution to this every growing issue, a call for congress to find a solution that will keep our communities and families safe from the devastation caused by deportation and a call for a solution that will allow undocumented immigrants in this country to come out of the shadows and begin down a proud pathway to citizenship.

Sincerely,

All Saints Episcopal Parish

All Saints Peace and Justice Committee

Pasadena en Espanol, Isabel Ramirez

Pasadena Latino Coalition

Pasadena Youth Center, Stella Murga

Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center

Greater Pasadena Jews for Justice

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater

Pastor Ricardo Moreno

Pasadena Presbyterian Church

Pasadena Altadena Coalition of Transformative Leaders

Pasadena Latino Forum