

May 20, 2026

Dear Senator/Representative:

We write to express our grave concern with budget reconciliation legislation being considered by Congress which would provide \$72 billion additional dollars for immigration enforcement under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As you know, Congress adopted HR 1 in 2025, reconciliation legislation which provided an unprecedented \$142 billion to DHS for the arrest, detention, and deportation of immigrants across the country.

As pastors, we remain troubled by how immigrants, the vast majority of whom have committed no crimes and have built equities in the country, have become targets for enforcement, with their God-given human dignity and human rights being violated on a daily basis.

On February 24, we issued a [statement](#) asking that DHS be required to make policy changes to its current enforcement practices in order to ensure that the human rights and dignity of all persons are fully respected. The changes included, among other recommendations, 1) the guarantee of due process in the removal process; 2) the preservation of family unity; 3) the elimination of mandatory detention and the detention of vulnerable groups; 4) the protection of sensitive locations (places of worship, schools, and hospitals), and 5) the restoration of asylum.

We ask that you support these recommended changes and work to include as many of them as possible in this second reconciliation measure. If no or insufficient of these immigration enforcement requirements are included in the bill, we respectfully ask that you oppose the legislation.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Edward Weisenburger, Archbishop of Detroit

Most Reverend John Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe

Most Reverend Gustavo Garcia y Siller, Archbishop of San Antonio

Most Reverend John Dolan, Bishop of Phoenix

Most Reverend James Misko, Bishop of Tucson

Most Reverend Peter Baldacchino, Bishop of Las Cruces

Most Reverend Mark Seitz, Bishop of El Paso

Most Reverend Michael Pham, Bishop of San Diego

Most Reverend Steven Biegler, Bishop of Cheyenne

Most Reverend Ramon Berjano, Bishop of Monterey

Most Reverend John Stowe, Bishop of Lexington

Most Reverend Daniel Garcia, Bishop of Austin

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio, Bishop Emeritus of Brooklyn