SAMPLE Leave Behind

The following talking points were used to advocate for comprehensive immigration reform in 2014. You may alter the talking points to address any issue. If you are looking for more current **immigration reform** talking points, please consult ISN’s immigration page at *igsol.net/advocacy*

**Leave behinds should include:**

* Your ask
* Points supporting your ask
* Your contact information
* A short description of your institution

**In general leave behinds should be:**

* Kept to one page
* Easy to comprehend quickly
* Visually appealing
* Left with the person you met with at the end of every legislative advocacy meeting



Ignatian Solidarity Network urges the Congressperson to **support comprehensive immigration reform (CIR)** by publically supporting and voting for a bill that creates an accessible pathway to citizenship for all 11 million people without documentation, works to maintain family unity in all elements of the immigration system, protect the most vulnerable, especially refugees and asylum seekers, respects the rights of U.S. and immigrant workers, and ensures the human rights of immigrant families as our immigration laws are enforced.

Further, ISN asks the Congressperson to **be vocal in opposition of legislation that devalues immigrants** and the contributions they make to our communities and economy.

**More information:**

**Christopher Kerr**Ignatian Solidarity Network

**BACKGROUND**

Catholic Social Teaching tells us that it is our “[duty to welcome the foreigner out of charity and respect for the dignity and rights of the human person](http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/immigration/churchteachingonimmigrationreform.cfm).” Currently there are [36 million foreign-born immigrants](http://www.catholiccharitiesatlanta.org/comprehensive-immigration-reform/) living in the United States, [11 million](http://www.pewhispanic.org/2014/09/03/as-growth-stalls-unauthorized-immigrant-population-becomes-more-settled/ph-2014-09-03-immigration-01/) of whom are undocumented. Under current legislation there is no pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who consider the United States home and contribute [$10 billion annually](https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/report/2014/10/23/59040/the-facts-on-immigration-today-3/#policy) to state and local tax revenues.

**CIR PROTECTS THE VULNERABLE**

Creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants helps keep families together, and prevents children from needlessly being placed in foster care. Refugees, asylum–seekers, and stateless people will face a fairer, more efficient system that respects human dignity.

**CIR PROMOTES A SAFER BORDER**

The misguided border militarization of the last decade has cost $100 billion, doubled the size of the Border Patrol without sufficient screening, training or accountability, led to over 6,000 dead and murdered immigrants, and allowed widespread civil and human rights violations.

**CIR REDUCES FUTURE UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRATION**

The only way to reduce undocumented immigration is to fix our broken immigration system, so people seeking work and family reunification can enter with documentation. For current undocumented immigrants, we must provide a realistic way for them to adjust their status by passing background checks, learning English, and paying taxes if they aren’t already, while working toward citizenship. Our faith teaches us that people have a right to migrate—this is not amnesty. It is the only smart, practical, faithful way to deal with the approximately 11 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S.

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