

## GOT QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM SIGN ON?



### **Why are signatures of support by Jesuit communities, ministries and Ignatian-inspired groups being collected at this time?**

This is the first time in the past decade that the Jesuit Commission on Social and International Ministries (JCSIM) has asked for group “sign-ons” regarding a matter of public policy. In fact it is even rare that the Jesuit provincials collectively sign support on a policy matter, let alone ask for others to also co-sign their support. Yet we feel a need to act now as a public witness, fully endorsing what the US Catholic Bishops have already called for in regard to Comprehensive Immigration Reform (CIR). This is critical moment in the national conversation to publicly endorse our support for immigration reform. We do so because so many Jesuit ministries accompany immigrants AND because the apostolic preferences cited in GC35 clearly indicate Jesuits concern for the plight of immigrants and refugees. We believe that gathering institutional and organizational endorsements across the provinces will clearly voice our position to our stakeholders, educate our publics and move our elected officials to enact Comprehensive Immigration Reform legislation.

### **Exactly what are Jesuit communities, ministries and Ignatian-inspired groups being asked to do?**

We are asking groups, organizations, and institutions to [sign a letter](#) to Senators and Representatives endorsing the principles of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. Communities, ministries and organizations should observe their established procedures for such public endorsements. If for some reason your group is not able to sign support at the present time, please share the [letter signed by the Jesuit Conference board](#) among their constituents (parishioners, students, staff, alumni) and urge them to send a personal letter to their Senators and representatives in Washington. This can easily be done through the Jesuit Advocates website - <http://capwiz.com/jesuit/home/>. Individual signatures will not be posted on line, but they will be directed to elected individuals via Jesuit Advocates. We realize that in some cases, a sub-group within a larger institution might be able to sign, which does not imply endorsement by the larger institution.

### **Isn't this a partisan issue?**

We endorse values, not specific politicians or parties. In this sense, we believe that Comprehensive Immigration Reform is a moral issue rather than a partisan issue. We hope that CIR will enlist bi-partisan support and honor the most noble traditions of our country.

### **What is a target date for groups to sign their support?**

Our goal is to obtain endorsements from 200 Ignatian groups and institutions by All Saints Day - November 1, 2010. But please don't wait until the last minute to sign – we will begin posting endorsements online by the end of September, and we'd like to see some real support by then!

### **Exactly what do we need to do to sign on?**

E-mail either your Province JCSIM representative (the person that you received the initial announcement from) [or outreach@jesuit.org](mailto:outreach@jesuit.org). Please use “immigration sign-on” in the subject line, and include the following:

- your name and e-mail
- the name of your group (as you would like it identified on the statement)
- Your group's postal address

### **Isn't it duplicative to have Jesuit provincials sign and also Jesuit ministries, communities and groups which come under that particular province?**

Elected officials are primarily accountable to residents of their state (or district for House of Representative members). Therefore, signatures by local groups will be most important to their affiliated elected officials rather than those of provincial who may reside in a different state. For example, an Arizona senator or House of Representatives member may not know that Arizona comes under the Jesuit governance of the California provincial.