Dear Speaker Boehner,

We write to you as fellow Catholics with heavy hearts and a profound sense of urgency. As the House of Representatives still delays passing comprehensive immigration reform, mothers are torn apart from children, migrants are dying in the desert and our nation is weakened.

Mr. Speaker, how can we fail to act?

Legislative obstruction in the face of preventable suffering and death is not only a failure of leadership. It is immoral and shameful. The eyes of our God — who hungers for justice and commands us to welcome the stranger and bind the wounds of those left by the side of the road — are on us.

Are we deaf to the cries of families and aspiring Americans separated by a broken system?

We stand with U.S. Catholic bishops who will celebrate Mass on Capitol Hill today, and who come once again to advocate for humane and practical immigration reform.

Will you pray with us that the House of Representatives puts aside partisanship and passes comprehensive reform?

Pope Francis reminds us that a “globalization of indifference” prevents us from seeing that every migrant, regardless of status, has inherent human dignity. As Catholics who share your commitment to the sanctity of life in the womb, we must not be complicit in the suffering of migrants dying in the shadows. Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, who has called justice for immigrants a “pro-life” issue, spoke during a Mass on the U.S.-Mexico border last month of the “unmarked graves of thousands who die alone and nameless.”

Is our nation so callous that we fail to weep for those nameless lost? We pray that you and your colleagues in the House have the moral courage to show real leadership and act.

Sincerely,

REV. LARRY SNYDER, CEO
Catholic Charities USA

REV. THOMAS H. SNOLUCK, S.J., President
Jesuit Conference

PATRICIA MCGUIRE, President
Trinity Washington University

REV. DANIEL GROODY, CSC, Director of Immigration Initiatives, Institute for Latino Studies
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REV. STEPHEN A. PRIVETT, S.J., President
University of San Francisco

DONNA M. CARROLL, President
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REV. CLETE KILEY, Director for Immigration Policy UNITE HERE

REV. CHARLES CURRIE, S.J., Executive Director
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REV. DREW CHRISTIANSEN, S.J., Distinguished Professor of Ethics & Global Development
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REV. MICHAEL U. PUCKET, S.J., St. Julie Billiart Parish Hamilton County, Ohio

REV. ANTHONY KITCHER, President
National Federation of Priests’ Councils

SR. SIMONE CAMPBELL, SSS, Executive Director
NETWORK, A Catholic Social Justice Lobby

STEPHEN F. SCHNECK, Director, Institute for Policy Research & Catholic Studies
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SR. SALLY DUFFY, SC, Executive Director
SC Ministry Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio

MOYA K. DITTMER, Executive Director
Conference for Mercy Higher Education

REV. LEONIR CHARELLO, C.S., Executive Director
Scalabrini International Migration Network

DONALD KERWIN, Executive Director
Center for Migration Studies of New York

FRANCIS X. DOYLE, Associate General Secretary (retired), U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

REV. FRED KAMMER, S.J., Director, Jesuit Social Research Institute
Loyola University New Orleans

REV. JOHN BAUMANN, S.J., Founder
PICO National Network

CHRISTOPHER G. KERR, Executive Director
Ignatian Solidarity Network

PATRICK CAROLAN, Executive Director
Franciscan Action Network

SR. PAT MCDERMOTT, RSM, President
Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

SR. CAROL ZINN, SSI, President
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SR. PATRICIA CHAPPELL, Executive Director
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REV. KEVIN WILDES, S.J., President
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JOHN GEHRING, Catholic Program Director
Faith in Public Life

GERRY LEE, Director
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CHRISTOPHER J. HALE, Senior Fellow
Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good

REV. KEVIN WILDES, S.J., President
Loyola University New Orleans

Catholic Leaders Agree:
IMMIGRANT FAMILIES NEED A VOTE NOW.

Read and share the letter at www.FaithInPublicLife.org/BishopsBorderMass