

June 11, 2012

On Monday, June 11th, as we remember our day of fast and prayer, we are invited to **“see with the eyes of God and with women’s hearts, the distress of millions of immigrants and displaced persons, of children and women victims of human trafficking seeking a more human life.”**

(Chapter Document, 2007)

Employment-Based Immigration

(third part)

Enforcement Mechanisms

Resources should be appropriated to ensure proper enforcement of worker protections in the program. Workers should be given the right to sue in federal court for violation of rights.

Path to Residency

Workers should have the option of working to earn permanent residency over time, similar to an earned legalization program, as outlined in my testimony. In our view, any new worker program must contain these elements in order avoid the abuses of past such programs and to ensure that worker’s rights are protected. In addition, it should be enacted in conjunction with a legalization program for the undocumented so that groups of workers are not pitted against each other. A just worker program also will mitigate the amount and effects of undocumented migration, which can lead to the abuse, exploitation, or even death of migrants.

Family-Based Immigration

Family reunification, upon which much of the U.S. immigration system has been based for the past 40 years, must remain the cornerstone of U.S. immigration policy. Immigrant families contribute to our nation and help form new generations of Americans. Even while many migrants come to the United States to find employment, many come as families.