
Advocacy Issues for Hill Visits January 24, 2014

2014 Catholic Social Ministry Gathering
Becoming "a Church that is Poor and for the Poor"

Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Prayer

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

*Almighty and eternal God, may your grace
enkindle in all persons a love
of the many unfortunate people
whom poverty and misery reduce
to a condition of life unworthy of human beings.
Arouse in the hearts
of those who call you Father
a hunger and thirst for social justice
and for fraternal charity in deeds and in truth.
Grant, O Lord, peace in our days,
peace to souls, peace to our community
and peace among nations –*

Amen.

Copyright © 2001, Pope Pius XII “A Prayer for Social Justice,” A Justice Prayer Book with Biblical Reflections, United States Catholic Conference, Washington, DC.

Where we are as Faithful Citizens at CSMG

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org



A Word on the 113th Congress

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

- **One of the least productive in history, Entering an election year**
- **Heavily partisan with little cooperation and conversation**
- **No Immediate Budget/Spending Concerns**
- **165 Catholics...**

27 Senate-18 D/9 R

138 House-61 R/77 D)

Hill Issues

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

**Fighting Poverty and Moving to
Human Flourishing**

Being Peacemakers in the Middle East

**Preserving International Assistance
Funding**

Poverty in America

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

- Poverty is at least 15 percent for the third consecutive year--hasn't been this high in close to 50 years.
- The younger you are in America, the more likely you are to grow up poor.
 - 20% percent of all children live in poverty today; for children under six, the rate increases to 25%.
- 12 percent of all families--nine million in total--live in poverty.
- Pope Francis says we all must work “to eliminate the structural causes of poverty and to promote the integral development of the poor.” It’s a shared responsibility.

“It is the responsibility of the State to safeguard and promote the common good of society. Based on the principles of subsidiarity and solidarity, and fully committed to political dialogue and consensus building, it plays a fundamental role, one which cannot be delegated, in working for the integral development of all. This role, at present, calls for profound social humility” (Evangelii Gaudium, No. 240)

Second Chance Act

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

- The bipartisan Second Chance Reauthorization Act (S. 1690, H.R. 3465) lifts up human dignity, reduces prison costs and improves public safety. It helps people leaving prison reintegrate back into their communities in healthy and productive ways so that they do not reoffend.
 - Provides federal, state, and local government additional tools to help inmates successfully reintegrate into their communities by authorizing funding for essential programs that focus on education, literacy, job-placement, substance abuse treatment and other assistance to help people leaving incarceration.
 - Second Chance will serve more people effectively by expanding the role of faith-based and nonprofit organizations by ensuring that they have equitable access to grants for family-based substance abuse treatment and career training
-

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Existing House Legislation

- Border Security (HR 1417)
- E-Verify: Legal Workforce Act HR 1772
- Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement (SAFE) Act (HR 2278)
 - Criminalize Undocumented Presence
- SKILLS Visa Act (HR 2131)
- Ag Act (HR 1773)

House Legislation Not Yet Introduced

- KIDS Act (version of DREAM Act)
- Legalization Bill—no path to citizenship
- Asylum “Reform”
- Low-Skilled Guestworker Program

* Detailed information about the elements for immigration reform is available:

Immigration Reform Messaging

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

- Path to Citizenship: A battle ahead
 - Final product must be comprehensive
 - Congress must show bipartisan accomplishment/cooperation
 - NO SAFE ACT
 - Family Immigration Must Be Maintained and an End to Human Suffering (family separation, detention, exploitation, death) must end
-

Protecting Poor and Vulnerable Families from Abortion

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

“It is not ‘progressive’ to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life.” – Pope Francis

- Women in poverty oppose abortion more than others, yet have higher abortion rate due to social and economic pressures
 - Public funding of abortion further increases this rate (up to 2x)
 - Most Americans, especially women, oppose public abortion funding, and do not want abortion in their health coverage
 - Even the Supreme Court says abortion is different from other medical procedures because it takes the life of the unborn --government can use its funding power to “encourage childbirth over abortion”
 - No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (HR 7, S 946) would end deficiencies and gaps in current law, so longstanding policy against federal abortion funding is permanent and government-wide
-

Being Peacemakers in the Middle East

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Iran

- Church's long-standing support for nuclear non-proliferation
- Opportunity to break stalemate between Iran and the West
- Support continued dialogue and the interim agreement between P5+1 and Iran over their nuclear program.
- Oppose new/contingent sanctions on Iran or military action

Israel and Palestine

- Support vigorous peaceful negotiations to find a just and lasting two-state solution
-

Strengthen Funding for International Poverty-Focused Development and Humanitarian Programs

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

- Thank Congress for responding to past advocacy and funding increases of some assistance programs
 - Need is great, given man-made conflicts (Syria) and natural disasters (Philippines)
 - Advocate for continued, sustained support for long-term humanitarian assistance and development programs.
-



International Poverty-Focused Development and Humanitarian Accounts



Account Title (\$ in thousands) (Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding included)	FY 13 CR*	FY 13 minus sequester**^	President's Budget Request	FY 14 Omnibus	Omnibus compared to FY 13 CR
<i>State, Foreign Operations Appropriations (SFOPs)</i>					
Maternal Health and Child Survival (including vaccines)	627,650	597,072	680,000	705,000	12.3%
Nutrition	98,420	93,670	95,000	115,000	16.8%
Vulnerable Children (orphans and displaced children)	18,130	17,255	13,000	22,000	21.3%
HIV/AIDS (USAID Programs)	362,600	345,100	330,000	330,000	-9.0%
Malaria, Tuberculosis and Other Infectious Diseases	1,070,188	1,018,538	not specified	1,073,500	0.3%
HIV/AIDS (State Funding/PEPFAR)	5,720,499	5,434,474	5,670,000	5,670,000	-0.9%
Development Assistance (including water, education)	2,845,350	2,703,083	2,837,812	2,507,001	-11.9%
International Disaster Assistance	1,599,661	1,550,911	2,045,000	1,801,000	12.6%
Migration and Refugee Assistance	2,716,645	2,622,890	1,760,960	3,055,000	12.5%
Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance	27,200	25,840	250,000	50,000	83.8%
Millennium Challenge Account	898,200	853,290	898,200	898,200	0.0%
Contributions to International Peacekeeping Activities	2,006,499	1,906,174	2,094,661	1,765,519	-12.0%
Peacekeeping Operations	435,859	414,066	347,000	435,600	-0.1%
SFOPs TOTAL	18,426,901	17,582,363	N/A	18,427,820	0.0%
<i>Agricultural Appropriations (Ag)</i>					
Food for Peace (Title II)**	1,435,000	1,363,250	reform proposed	1,466,000	2.2%
McGovern-Dole	184,000	174,000	185,126	185,126	0.5%
AG TOTAL	1,619,000	1,537,250	N/A	1,651,000	2.0%
COMBINED TOTAL (~0.5% of budget)	20,045,901	19,119,613	N/A	20,078,820	0.2%

*This assumes proportionate changes to subaccounts from the overall USAID global health figure specified in FY13 CR.

** The President proposed reforms to food aid for FY 14.

^This is calculated as a 5% reduction to base bill funding (excluding OCO).

Thank You

FEBRUARY 2-5, 2014 • WASHINGTON, DC



www.catholicsocialministrygathering.org

Questions?

See you in Washington soon!
