

On Fire for Immigration Reform

A Pentecost Resource



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

"We are one family under God"

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On Fire for Immigration Reform: A Pentecost Resource

Join Catholics across the country for seven days of prayer, reflection, and action to heal our broken immigration system. Each day will be centered on one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. It will be through this lens that we will explore seven aspects of our immigration system.

Each day participants will be asked to engage in the daily reflection and the closing prayer (on page 6-7). Additionally, we encourage you to choose to engage in one or more of the suggested actions, joining with other Catholics across the country.

This resource could be used by individuals, small groups, or whole parish communities. Please see the pulpit announcements on page 15.

About Justice for Immigrants

The **Justice for Immigrants: A Journey of Hope** campaign was developed to unite and mobilize a growing network of Catholic institutions, individuals, and other persons of good faith in support of comprehensive immigration reform. Its goal is to maximize the Church's influence on this issue, consistent with the immigration reform principles enunciated in the bishops' pastoral letter, *Strangers No Longer: A Journey of Hope*.

The Campaign's primary objectives are:

- To educate the public, especially the Catholic community, including Catholic public officials, about Church teaching on migration and immigrants;
- To create political will for positive immigration reform;
- To enact legislative and administrative reforms based on the principles articulated by the bishops; and
- To organize Catholic networks to assist qualified immigrants obtain the benefits of the reforms.

Participating National Organizations include:

- Catholic Campaign Against Global Poverty
- Catholic Campaign for Human Development
- Catholic Charities USA
- Catholic Health Association
- Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
- Catholic Relief Services
- Columban Fathers
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men
- Franciscan Action Network
- Glenmary Home Missioners
- Hispanic Affairs - USCCB
- Irish Apostolate USA
- Jesuit Conference
- Jesuit Refugee Service
- Justice, Peace and Human Development - USCCB
- Leadership Conference of Women Religious
- Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
- Migration and Refugee Services - USCCB
- National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors of Hispanic Ministries
- National Catholic Educational Association
- National Council of Catholic Women
- Network
- Pax Christi USA
- The Roundtable
- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

Introduction

Acts 2:1-11

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, they were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.

At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd,

but they were confused

because each one heard them speaking in his own language.

They were astounded, and in amazement they asked,

“Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans?

Then how does each of us hear them in his native language?

We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites,

inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia,

Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia,

Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene,

as well as travelers from Rome,

both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs,

yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues

of the mighty acts of God.”

History

Pentecost is an ancient feast. In the Christian calendar the 50th day after Easter supplanted the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, 50 days after the Passover, which celebrated the sealing of the Covenant on Mt. Sinai. Christians celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples, often called “the birthday of the Church.” In earlier times, both fasting and kneeling were forbidden during the 50 days of Pentecost which were supposed to give a foretaste of heaven.

Reflection for Pentecost

The themes expressed during Pentecost have obvious implications for those of us interested in the issue of migration and diversity. The story of the Tower of Babel provides a useful backdrop to understanding the importance of Pentecost in this regard. Genesis 11 tells the story of a time when humanity all spoke a common language. Following their attempt to build a tower into the Heavens, God came down to “confuse their language so they will not understand each other.” Traditional interpretations of this text often understand the introduction of new languages and the division of humanity as a punishment for pride. This breakdown leads to an inability to communicate effectively with one another due to the emergence of a plethora of languages.

Pentecost provides a moment of restoration to the linguistic and cultural divisions that have separated one person from another, and brings with it a new found sense of unity in community. God, rather than confusing language, sends his Holy Spirit so that even those who speak different languages from others around them, now hear one another in their native tongue. In the presence of the Holy Spirit all are united as one; place of origin is recognized as the mere accident that it is. How do our communities continue to be divided, particularly in light of newcomers who come to live in our neighborhoods? Do we reach out a hand of welcome to them or do we maintain the artificial barriers that keep us apart? How can we better welcome the stranger in our midst?

Reflection on the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Wind and fire: images of power. Both have capacity for destruction and for life, for pain and for healing.

The Spirit of God empowers for life, for enthusiastic, bold witness in proclaiming the “good news.” Wind: breath of the Spirit, the soft whisper of God’s voice within us as persistent as our breathing, or a strong wind shaking us loose from fear, doubt, timidity, apathy, empowering us to speak and act boldly for what we know is right and just.

Fire: a reminder of the Holy Spirit’s essential role in the creation of the world and of the Church, Spirit who came as “tongues of fire,” encouraging the disciples to spread God’s word to all people with enthusiasm. Fire symbolizes the light of truth and heat of love. When we are “on fire” about something we are passionate about it.

May we be filled with and inspired by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. If we are “truly wise” and “understanding” we will relish what is right and just for immigrants in our country and will work with “fortitude” for genuine immigration reform, sustained by the “piety” of love and hope. May the feast of Pentecost rekindle in our hearts the fire of God’s love for all, and energize us to continue the work of immigration reform in partnership with immigrant sisters and brothers, who are participating in the mission of the Holy Spirit to “renew the face of the Earth”—and of the United States of America.

Closing Prayer
from Hildegarde of Bingen

Be not lax in celebrating.

Be not lazy in the festive service of God.

Be ablaze with enthusiasm.

Let us be an alive, burning offering

before the altar of God.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Monday, May 18

God grant us the gift of Wisdom to contemplate the root causes of immigration.

Reflection

The gift of wisdom enables us to value what we believe by faith; to see in any event or situation the essential meaning beneath what is immediately obvious. While advocates and legislators address the effects of immigration, all need to examine the root causes, the reasons people take risks to come to this country, if long-term solutions are to be found. We pray for ourselves, our families and communities, and for our legislators, the wisdom to see that migration has understandable causes that need to be addressed and that immigration reform is a moral issue.

Educational resource

It is not an easy decision to leave your family and friends to risk your life to come to the United States. The choice to migrate, especially without legal authorization, is most often a desperate act. Read Celina's story and learn why she migrated to the United States, visit: <http://bit.ly/1omLb8i>.

Group action

Watch the film *Who is Dayni Crystal?* You can view the trailer or schedule a showing of the documentary at whoisdayanicristal.com. To access more resources, including a facilitator guide to the film, visit www.interfaithimmigration.org/2014/04/22/who-is-dayani-crystal/.

Individual action

- Talk to a person who has come from another country. Ask why she/he left home for a new land. How does her/his current life compare with the life left behind? What were the benefits of migrating? What were the sacrifices?
- Spend some time in reflection with Celina. Could she have made different choices? What did she need that she did not have?

Tuesday, May 19

God grant us Piety so we can serve the most vulnerable, including migrant and women children, not out of duty but out of love.

Reflection

Piety is a fiery desire to worship God in word and deed, not out of duty, but out of love, a love which reaches out to those who suffer under unjust systems. We pray for asylees and refugees, undocumented immigrants, migrant victims of human trafficking, survivors of torture, and unaccompanied children. We urge Congress to assure adequate funding to assist them.

Educational resource

Since 2011, the United States has seen an unprecedented increase in the number of unaccompanied migrating children arriving to the country, predominately at the U.S./Mexico border. Whereas the number of children apprehended averaged 6,800 between 2004 and 2011, the total jumped to over 13,000 children in 2012 and over 24,000 children in 2013. In 2014 the number of children apprehended rose to nearly 60,000. To learn more about the situation confronting unaccompanied children, please take a look at our [resource kit](#) that focuses on this issue. Please also use (and share) this [prayer](#), which highlights migrant children.

Group action

It is critical that the federal government maintain protections for unaccompanied migrant children who come to the United States. With other supporters, read and reflect on this Op-ed by USSCB Committee on Migration Chairman Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, *How we treat vulnerable children on the border shows the world America's values*.

Individual action

Reach out to your local Catholic Charities or similar social service to see how you can help migrant children, refugees, or other migrants who have recently moved into your local community. You can find a list of Catholic Charities in your area at <http://catholiccharitiesusa.org/our-impact/agency-spotlight/>.

Wednesday, May 20

God grant us the gift of Knowledge, so we can comprehend the suffering of families who are held in detention and often separated from one another during their incarceration.

Reflection

Imagine fleeing to the United States to escape the violence in your hometown. Fearing for your own and your children's lives you brave a dangerous journey—facing the risk of being robbed or being the victim of physical violence or sexual assault—to reach a place of safety. Upon your arrival in the United States you are detained and processed into a detention center, where you are often forced to wait for weeks on end. During this time you are often separated from your family members and your human rights are severely curtailed.

Educational resource

Thousands of woman and children are held in detention in centers located in Karnes and Dilley, Texas, and Berks, Pennsylvania. The detention of migrant women and their children in an arbitrary fashion, without individualized assessments of their threat to the community or flight risk, reflects a clear violation of their human rights. For example, the mothers and children detained in the current immigrant detention facilities have no ability to leave the facility and have restrictions placed on their movement within the facility based on space and child care constraints. Read more about family detention at www.usccb.org/about/migration-policy/position-papers/upload/Family-Detention-Paper_Final_-3-19-15-2.pdf.

Group action

Host a letter writing campaign. Ask President Obama to end the arbitrary family detention and replace it with an alternative to detention system in which families are released to sponsors or a community based management program until such time that they are able to appear in court. To ensure your letters are received quickly, it is best to submit them on line at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>.

Individual action

Then Call the White House at 1-866-473-5915 Sample script: “I’m from City, State and as a Catholic, I urge President Obama to please end the policy of detaining families and their children. Family detention serves no purpose and undermines due process. It especially affects children, who experience emotional and psychological harm from detention.”

Thursday, May 21

God grant us the gift of Understanding, so that we may mourn the death and suffering on our border.

Reflection

Through the gift of understanding, we grasp the essence of the truths of our faith. Understanding enables us to see with God's eyes the long range impact of decisions made about enforcement and border security rather than propose solutions that may be harmful instead of helpful. We pray that border security will be understood as only one component of a genuine, compassionate, and workable immigration system.

Educational resource

In his homily at a July 8, 2013 Mass celebrated with the residents of the Italian island of Lampedusa and the immigrants who have sought refuge there, Pope Francis spoke out against the “globalization of indifference” that leads to tragedies like the deaths of so many migrants seeking a better life. Read the Pope's homily at Lampedusa: <http://bit.ly/1qwZWYj>.

Group action

Following the example given by Pope Francis at Lampedusa, where the Holy Father remembered migrants from Africa who have died trying to reach Europe, a USCCB-sponsored Mass in Nogales, Arizona called attention to the humanitarian consequences of the our nation's broken immigration system. A group of Catholic bishops, led by Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston, commemorated the deaths of migrants in the U.S. desert and prayed for immigration reform. Invite your community to watch the border Mass together. Access the video on the Justice for Immigrants and find additional resources at: <http://bit.ly/1o5oerc>.

Individual action

Break down the barriers of misinformation with social media. You can access suggested tweets and Facebook posts in the resource section. If you do not use social media, you can also access an outline for writing a letter to the editor about the broken immigration system.

Friday, May 22

God, grant us the gift of Counsel so we may make decisions based on Gospel values.

Reflection

The gift of Counsel provides ability to search, ask questions, and judge the best way to act in light of current circumstances. It is neither a moral value nor an American value to create a class system in which millions of people can never hold citizenship. We pray for the grace to ask the right questions and pursue the most effective ways of persuading Congress to enact immigration reform that includes a clearly defined, earned, and achievable path to citizenship.

Educational resource

Read the USCCB/MRS issue brief, [Why Don't They Come Here Legally?](#) to gain insight into our nation's past immigration practices and to learn more about the complicated federal requirements, regulations, and restrictions that current immigrants must follow today in order to immigrate to the United States.

Group action

Schedule an in-district meeting with your member of Congress or invite him/her to visit your organization or community. Call the Capitol switchboard number at 202-224-3121 to be connected with your representative's office. Ask to speak to the scheduler and he/she will work with you to find a suitable time to meet with your representative in-district. Find tips for planning a visit at: <http://bit.ly/RIndqM>.

Individual action

Call this toll-free number, 1-855-589-5698, to be connected to the in-district office of your U.S. House Member and ask them to:

- Vote for immigration reform,
- support a path to citizenship,
- preserve family unity, and
- employ safe and humane immigration enforcement practices.

Saturday, May 23

God grant us the gift of Fortitude to enter into the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Reflection

This Gift of the Spirit enables us to overcome fear and be drawn by the Love of Christ, who risked suffering and even death to expose sin, injustice, and violence. Fortitude is the virtue of the martyrs which calls us out of our comfort zone to take risks with the Lord. We pray for the will to risk our comforts, our routines, our status, our resources, and our access to privilege as we live into deep solidarity and work for comprehensive immigration reform.

Educational resource

The Dream is Now is a 30-minute documentary that captures the debate over immigration reform as it unfolds in the lives of five extraordinary young people. Academy Award-winning director Davis Guggenheim shines a spotlight on the struggle and fortitude of the undocumented children of immigrants desperate to earn their citizenship and contribute to the country they call home. In a larger sense, theirs is the story of all 11.5 million immigrants forced to live in the shadows—denied the chance to realize their dreams. The film goes beyond the personal, placing the stories of these young people in a larger context, exploring the consequences of our current immigration policies – not just for the young people of today but for our country’s future.

View the film on YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zfiInvpjPtI> or at www.thedreamisnow.org where you will also find resources for discussion and action.

Group action

Call to public witness. With fortitude stand in solidarity with the immigrant community. Suggested actions can be found in the resource section.

Individual action

Write Letters to the Editor or Op-Eds challenging the system that profits from imprisoning immigrants. Guidelines and tips can be found in the resource section.

Pentecost Sunday, May 24

God grant us the gift of Fear of the Lord so we as one community we can hope in your abiding love.

Reflection

This Gift of the Spirit does not inspire anxiety or dread of God, but gives us an abiding consciousness of God's presence in us, thus confirming the theological virtue of hope. We pray that in our work for immigration reform we may not yield to pressures that try to deter us, but may learn from our immigrant brothers and sisters to live and act always with hope, believing that "if God is for us, who can be against?"

Educational resource

Reflect on the readings and homily of this Pentecost Sunday through the lens of our broken immigration system.

Group action

Celebrate the diversity of culture, language and a shared faith in God. Plan a joint gathering between the Spanish Mass and English Mass groups in a local parish.

Individual action

Call Speaker Boehner's office in Washington D.C. at 202-225-6205. Tell him that with him that we are placing our "hope" in his leadership. You can see a sample script below. If we fill up his voicemail, then send Speaker Boehner an email at <http://www.speaker.gov/Contact/>.

Sample Script:

Speaker Boehner,

This Pentecost Sunday, I am praying for you and your colleagues in the House of Representatives that together you may be able to find solutions to fix our broken immigration system. Time is running out. I ask you do everything in your power to pass just and humane immigration reform that preserves family unity and offers a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

Pulpit Announcements

Seventh Sunday of Easter

As we begin the week that climaxes with Pentecost next Sunday, it is important that we take a moment to reflect on the unity of the Church in Christ, and not allow our place of origin, our legal status, or the cultural differences that too often and too easily divide us from one another, to do so anymore. This season provides us an opportunity to come to terms with what our unity with one another means in our daily lives, outside these four walls, and in our mission to bring the Gospel to the world.

Suggested Actions:

- Before the feast of Pentecost, meet with your Member of Congress while they are in their home districts during the week of Memorial Day and ask them to pass immigration reform legislation. Harness the power of the season to advocate passionately on behalf of our immigrant brothers and sisters and their families.
- On June 6th, call this toll-free number, 1-855-589-5698, to be connected to the in-district office of your U.S. House Member and ask them to:
 - Vote for immigration reform,
 - support a path to citizenship,
 - preserve family unity, and
 - employ safe and humane immigration enforcement practices.

Pentecost Sunday

In our reading from the Acts of the Apostles we hear the story of disciples who came from all over the known world: from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Rome, and elsewhere. Although from different places and speaking different tongues, with the descent of the Holy Spirit each one came to understand the others when they spoke. Let this be a reminder that despite our differences, we are one in Christ. It is imperative then, that we not allow our place of origin, our legal status, or our cultural differences to blind us to this unity.

Suggested Action

In the spirit of the season, please call the office of your Member of Congress and remind her or him that, like the disciples in the story of Pentecost, our families came from different lands and that we are all children of God. Call this toll-free number, 1-855-589-5698, to be connected to the in-district office of your U.S. House Member and ask them once more to:

- Vote for immigration reform,
- support a path to citizenship,
- preserve family unity, and
- employ safe and humane immigration enforcement practices.

Resources

Social Media

Twitter

- Important handles: @SpeakerBoehner; @McConnellPress; @USCCBJFI
- Access your member of Congress' twitter handle at <http://stuffthought.com/blog/113th-congress-twitter-handles/>
- Sample Tweets

@SpeakerBoehner @McConnellPress Catholics support immigration reform that preserves family unity and offers a path to citizenship @USCCBJFI

@SpeakerBoehner and @(your member) I am counting on you to pass immigration reform in the 113th Congress @USCCBJFI

@(your member) as a constituent, I expect you to do everything you can to pass just and humane immigration reform @USCCBJFI

Facebook

- Justice for Immigrants: <fb.com/JusticeForImmigrants>

Flash Mobs or Role Plays

What is it? A justice and peace flash mob is a way to call people's attention to an issue by using coordinated surprise activity in a meaningful public location.

Often we get distracted in our ordinary routines from attending to the urgent issues of the day. This is one tactic that can re-orient folks to these urgent issues. They have been used in high-intensity conflicts such as Belarus and Egypt, as well as lower-intensity spaces such as the UK for various social issues or at Wall Street in the U.S.

Video examples are available at: <http://bit.ly/1iL06Wz>

Why for Immigration Reform?

For immigration reform, we encourage you to consider using this tactic at this time to spark creativity, re-energize each other, and to help bystanders more deeply sense the pain and injustice of our present system.

How do we do it?

1. Connect and gather interested people. It can be small from 3-5 or larger groups.
2. Choose your location. Decide on a public place that has meaningful significance and entails a lot of bystanders. For example, near the district office of your representative, at a central location your community, at a key business benefiting from the unjust system, in a place where many might not support immigration reform and just be inactive, etc.
3. Develop your method and roles. There are multiple ways to consider flash mobs to catch people's attention, such as a simple set of coordinated gestures, a noticeable coordinated walk, flashing signs, a song, a simple dance, role-play, etc. Normally it entails the participants simply hanging out in the chosen area, and then at once or gradually entering into the coordinated activity. Music in some form is generally a valuable component. For example, you might do a brief 30-90 second role-play of an ICE agent arresting an immigrant with their family nearby and emotionally distraught about their mother/father/sibling, etc. being deported. This could be done with words or in silence. Then have a few people simply hold up signs with short messages for bystanders to see. Some people could be "supportive observers" who are simply present, might applaud, etc. You could do this in multiple locations at the same or different times. Organizers should be conscious of health and safety.
4. Plan for Press and Attend to Multiple Audiences. Contact a few press people ahead of time that you trust to keep details confidential, but who could also be in the area to see and report it. You should plan to video it if participants are ok with this and then share it on social media, e.g. Youtube. Coordinating tweets to your representative and Facebook posts on your representative's page would enhance the impact. *You should also have a couple of people hand out 3 x 5 flyers to bystanders with short messages on the issue and who you are, as well as ways to contact their representative and you if they want to get involved later.
5. Celebrate your experience. Gather sometime soon afterwards and debrief, but also spend some time celebrating together your creativity, courage, and solidarity!
6. Questions: contact Eli McCarthy, Director of Justice and Peace at CMSM, emccarthy@cmsm.org or 301-588-4030.

Sample Letter to the Editor: General

Start with a specific reference to a recent article about immigration, and express disapproval or approval. Then continue with the part below.

As a (name your religious order, your job or just put Catholic), I am (either your individual, communal or churches role on this issue). (My/our) commitment to immigration reform comes from (this will have to come from you but examples could be: as a teacher your experience teaching children that have had parents deported). This service includes our commitment here in (City, State) (run a school, serve in a hospital, etc.) It is through our direct interaction with migrants that (I/we) know the broken immigration system separates families; exploits vulnerable migrants by unscrupulous employers and smugglers and disregards the human dignity of our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. We must push our elected officials to provide a pathway to citizenship and offer measures that support family reunification. I join other faith leaders in praying that Senators (names of your elected officials for state/district) and Representative (names of your elected officials for state/district) makes the right decision and pass just and humane immigration reform.

Sample Letter to Editor: For-profit Private Prison Detention Companies

Start with a specific reference to a recent article about immigration, and express disapproval or approval. Then continue with the part below.

(I am/We are) advocating diligently for genuine solutions to our unjust immigration system. However, major for-profit private prison detention companies, i.e. Corrections Corporation of America (CCA) and the GEO Group's approach to immigration is in stark contrast to our values.

A solutions-based approach to immigration reform that relies on the values of human dignity, compassion, and hospitality includes swift citizenship for undocumented immigrants, re-uniting families, protecting refugees and asylees, due process protections for immigrants, an end to deportations, and addressing root causes or drivers of forced migration.

In contrast, CCA and GEO are pouring millions of dollars into lobbying Congress, (including our congressional representative (Name),) primarily to increase their market and win immigration-related detention contracts. The result is immigration reform legislation that focuses on border surges and detention. This emphasis on border and interior enforcement will increase the number of people in these private detention centers, increase the number of deportations, and likely increase the profits of private prisons at the expense of many who are poor and marginalized.

One egregious example of this pattern is the 34,000 "bed quota" presently required by law to ensure their profits. CCA and GEO's business is very disappointing, disheartening, and in many ways unjust.

I/We urgently request that (my/our) congressional representative(s) (Name) refrain from receiving any money from CCA or GEO, pay back any that has been received, and avoid allowing the private for-profit interests of CCA or GEO to influence immigration legislation.

*Instead, I/we ask that (my/our) congressional representative(s) (Name) end the bed quota and contribute to the immigration debate in a more constructive way in accord with human dignity, compassion and hospitality as described above. In addition, I/we plan to divest from CCA and GEO, while encouraging other individuals and organizations to also divest of any financial investments in both CCA and GEO.**

**An alternative ending:*

...while encouraging other individuals and organizations to publicly explore divesting or engage in effective shareholder advocacy that diminishes the negative influence CCA/GEO have on immigration reform.

**If you don't have stock in CCA/GEO:*

...we refuse to own stock in CCA and GEO and encourage other individuals and organizations to publicly explore divesting or engaging in effective shareholder advocacy that diminishes the negative influence CCA/GEO have on immigration reform legislation.

Resources: Major Private Prison/Detention Center Corporations

Corrections Corporation of America

- Campaign Finance: Spent \$5.2 mill. since 1990; \$400,000 (2011-2013);
- 91% of donations to Republicans (2013)
- Lobbying: Spent \$19 million since 1990; \$2.6 mill. (2011-2013)

GEO Group

- Campaign Finance: Spent \$4.6 mill. since 1990; \$400,000 (2011-2013);
- Lobbying: Spent \$3 mill. since 1990; \$700,000 (2011-2013)
- CCA acknowledges the need to expand the market: “(o)ur growth is generally dependent upon our ability to obtain new contracts to develop and manage new correctional and detention facilities.” (2012)

JFI Focused Catholic Congresspersons Receiving Funding from CCA and/or GEO

- J. Boehner, Rep. OH-8: \$40,000 in 2012-2014
- H. Cuellar, Dem. TX-28, \$27,000 2012-2014
- T. Ryan, Dem. OH-13, \$12,500 in 2012-2014 (CCA)
- M. McCaul, Rep. TX-10 \$1,000 in 2013 (#7 for GEO)
- P. Tiberi, Rep. OH-12, \$1,000 in 2013 (#7 for GEO)
- S. Brooks, Rep. IN-5, \$1,000 in 2012 (GEO)
- For a fuller tally of all congresspersons receiving funding from CCA and/or GEO between 2012-2014 see: <http://bit.ly/1miJ7vY>

Further Research Links

- CCA:
<http://influenceexplorer.com/organization/corrections-corp-of-america/46a43aff0a6743c59fbed588e8ee743?cycle=2014>
- GEO:
<http://influenceexplorer.com/organization/geo-group/7dfa33488aad4908ac1c75336c20db05?cycle=2014>
- Congresspersons, etc.:
www.opensecrets.org
- Articles:
 - <http://bit.ly/1dVAoYh>
 - <http://bit.ly/1mStGsT>

Talking Points

1. Include a personal connection/story
2. We want Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes:
 - Values of human dignity, compassion, hospitality
 - Swift pathway to citizenship
 - Family unit
 - Addresses root causes
3. For-Profit Prisons, esp. CCA and GEO obstruct this goal
 - By funding candidates
 - Increasing their market
 - 34,000 “bed quota”
4. We call on our congressional rep. to:
 - refrain from receiving money from CCA/GEO,
 - pay back any that have been received
 - avoid allowing CCA/GEO to influence immigration legislation
 - end the bed quota
5. I/We plan to
 - divest (or explore divesting) from CCA/GEO
 - refuse to invest in CCA/GEO
6. I/We encourage other individuals/organizations to also publicly divest or engage in effective shareholder advocacy that diminishes the negative influence CCA/GEO has on immigration reform ration reform.