

2 July 2007

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

VIA FAX: 202-228-0325 (2 Pages)

Dear Senator Stabenow:

With deep disappointment I write today regarding your contradictory position on the issue of immigration and your recent “no” vote on a motion to invoke cloture on S. 1639, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform.

You may recall our meeting in February 2006 outside of your Washington office during the Catholic Social Ministry gathering, when you communicated your position of support for comprehensive immigration legislation. A member of your staff, Eric Floden, with whom we later met inside your office, then seconded your position, making it clear to the Catholic population in Michigan that you supported protecting the basic dignity of immigrant persons in our country. Unfortunately, your abandonment of this position was not communicated either to myself or to my staff in Lansing.

The Catholic bishops of Michigan have lent the full weight of their pastoral duties to and support for continued efforts to fix the broken immigration status quo in our country, which was articulated in a letter sent to every Catholic parish in Michigan on 29 April 2007, and later copied to your office accompanied by a letter from Michigan Catholic Conference President and Chief Executive Officer Sister Monica Kostielney, RSM.

Senator Stabenow, as it is apparent that further efforts to reform immigration in our country continue to be necessary, I respectfully urge you to re-evaluate your position on immigration and return to supporting just immigration policies through comprehensive reform.

Thank you.

Paul A. Long
Vice President, Public Policy

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cc: Mid-Michigan Office of U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
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