



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Justice and Advocacy, Ministries, ELCA-NE

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Statement for New Hope for Immigration Reform Event

Today we stand in the very heart of a nation steeped in a new found hope; hope for a transparency in government that will end the gridlock that has paralyzed our nation for the past eight years.

Today we stand in the very heart of a nation that fervently believes all people, even immigrants, are “created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.”

Today we stand in the very heart of a nation that knows a “government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the Earth.

Yet today we stand in the very heart of a nation drenched in conflict stemming from a terribly broken immigration system – a system that is impossible and expensive to enforce, encourages desperate people to break laws, creates strife between neighbors, divides families, and leads state and local governments to desperate measures.

So we stand here today as the heart of the nation – a heart that beats loudly and clearly, calling on Congress for comprehensive and humane reform of our immigration laws. We stand here today and call on all Nebraskans to remember they indeed have a voice and strongly urge them to use that voice to call on their Congressional leaders demanding change. We stand here today, urging our Unicameral and Governor to avoid taking unnecessary and costly action in an attempt to address what Congress has not. We stand here today, calling on our on Unicameral and Governor to pass a Legislative Resolution strongly urging Congress to act.

We stand here today as faith leaders, who are resolute in our passion to strive for justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, and call on our colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

***Rev Dr Chuck Bentjen, Director
Justice and Advocacy Ministries, ELCA-NE***