

(Sample letter - for congregations)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

*We, the members of \_\_\_\_\_ (congregation) \_\_\_\_\_, wish to make known the following:  
We claim obedience to the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves, and the biblical teaching to welcome foreigners among us. Because of this, we will reach out in compassion and love to immigrants in our state, treat them with respect, learn from them, and seek to provide for their needs.*

*We call on you, our elected representatives, to work on bipartisan legislation for immigration reform. We recognize that there are many complex issues to consider, but we believe that united efforts can result in solutions that a) treat immigrants with respect, b) avoid separation of families, and c) simplify the process for asylum requests. We recognize the legitimate role that you play as our leaders to ensure the safety and well-being of our country's citizens. At the same time, we ask that your deliberations and decisions not be based on fear or demonization of entire cultures. In addition, we ask you to recognize how the economic and foreign policy decisions of our country affect the ability of others to live safely and sustainably in their countries of origin, and thus directly impact the decisions of many whether or not to emigrate.*

*We pledge our prayer support to you and your colleagues, as we seek to work with you to further our country's legacy as a place that welcomes the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."  
(Emma Lazarus - plaque on Statue of Liberty)*

*Sincerely,*

(Sample letter - for individuals)

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

*I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name) \_\_\_\_\_, resident of \_\_\_\_\_ (address) \_\_\_\_\_ wish to make known the following: I claim obedience to the commands of our Lord Jesus Christ to love my neighbors as myself, and the biblical teaching to welcome foreigners among us. Because of this, I will reach out in compassion and love to immigrants in my state, treat them with respect, learn from them, and seek to provide for their needs.*

*I call on you, my elected representatives, to work on bipartisan legislation for immigration reform. I recognize that there are many complex issues to consider, but I believe that united efforts can result in solutions that a) treat immigrants with respect, b) avoid separation of families, and c) simplify the process for asylum requests. I recognize the legitimate role that you play as our leaders to ensure the safety and well-being of our country's residents. At the same time, I ask that your deliberations and decisions not be based on fear or demonization of entire cultures. In addition, I ask you to recognize how the economic and foreign policy decisions of our country affect the ability of others to live safely and sustainably in their countries of origin, and thus directly impact the decisions of many whether or not to emigrate.*

*I pledge my prayer support to you and your colleagues, as I seek to work with you to further our country's legacy as a place that welcomes the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."  
(Emma Lazarus - plaque on Statue of Liberty)*

*Sincerely,*