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Houston-Area Faith Leaders reject the “Safe Act” bill

Wednesday October 23, 1:30 pm
St Paul’s United Methodist Church

The Metropolitan Organization (TMO) and members of an Interfaith coalition of Houston area religious leaders, including Bishop Janice Riggie Huie (Texas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church) Rabbi David Lyon (Congregation Beth Israel), Bishop Michael Rinehart (Gulf Coast Synod, Evangelical **Lutheran** Church in America), Bishop Andrew Doyle (Episcopal Diocese of Texas), Rev. Mike Cole (General Presbyter New Covenant Presbytery), His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo (Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston), Rev. John Ogletree (First Metropolitan Church), and others, will gather on **Wednesday October 23, 2013 at 1:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, 5501 Main Street, Houston, Texas.**

Cardinal DiNardo states, “We will urge the House of Representatives to pass comprehensive immigration reform that keeps families together, protects workers and “Dreamers,” and provides a workable path to citizenship. These faith leaders find the “Safe Act” bill unacceptable, as well as any legislation that addresses only border security. For that reason, in light of our principles, it is unacceptable. For the past three years, we faith leaders have met, prayed, studied and spoken in unity over the issue of comprehensive immigration reform. Every day, in parishes, congregations, synagogues and mosques, through our charitable and outreach ministries, we witness the pain, fear and heartache of people who come to us, who live among us in the shadows of society. They can suffer exploitation in the workplace, live under the constant threat of deportation and bear the weight of the fear of possible separation from their family members and friends.”

Speaking for the group, Bishop Huie continues, “As people of faith, we urge reforms that uphold the God-given dignity and rights of every person, each of whom are made in the image of God. We believe fundamental human rights, such as the right to migrate and the right to support a family, are critical. We are dedicated to just and compassionate immigration reform because we value family unity, justice, equity, compassion, love, and the humane treatment of all persons.”

Rabbi Lyon adds, “As leaders of various faith communities, this coalition stands united in our beliefs in the dignity and infinite worth of every human being is made in the image of God. How we treat the immigrant is a core religious value for each of our faith communities - to welcome the immigrant is to welcome a child of God.”

In 2008, the coalition issued a joint statement of shared faith principles which they believe should inform and shape the needed changes to our immigration laws. They have used, and

continue to use, these principles to evaluate any proposed immigration reform legislation. These principles include:

- Family unity;
- Protection of workers and an efficient and adequate process for documented entry of new workers;
- A viable path to citizenship; and
- Restoration of due process procedures and reformation of deportation procedures consistent with the honoring of basic human rights

Coalition leaders continue to urge for reform consistent with these principles and find the Safe Act, as well any bill that addresses only border security to be sorely lacking.

The group prays for their Senators and Congress men and women by name.