

St. Clare
Catholic Community

February, 1, 2007

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a pastoral associate at St. Clare Catholic Church and am very concerned about the proposed increase in fees to file immigration applications. Our Church has many legal immigrants from whom I consistently hear that the application process was already too difficult and costly.

We also have a sister Church in Guatemala from where many undocumented immigrants come. Their economic circumstances there are desperate and they come here because they are willing to work very hard and jobs requiring this type of hard work are plentiful here. (Their willingness to work hard for very little money helps our economy in ways such as keeping our food prices low.) Most of the immigrants from our sister Church do not file for legal immigration because they are too poor to do so and so they take their chances and come here illegally rather than having their families starve. Increasing the filing fees will only increase the number of people who are forced to come here illegally to work.

Instead of increasing the filing fees to cover your costs, please consider asking Congress for funding to cover the increased costs. Openness to people desiring a better way of life and freedom from oppression is one of the founding principles of our nation. Let's keep it that way.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sommer

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