



March 17, 2009

Congressman Luis Gutierrez
2266 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Gutierrez:

On behalf of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, we would like to thank you for your leadership in organizing the Family Unity Tour. Showcasing the stories of the people most deeply impacted by the harmful impact of raids and family separation will help widen the support among fellow Americans for a humanitarian approach to fix the broken immigration system. Your tour has been both effective and powerful for mobilizing communities of faith to become more involved in the immigration movement.

We are also grateful for your presence and inspiring speech at our February 11th press conference at the Capitol, which highlighted the 170 prayer vigils our coalition coordinated around President's Day recess. We have enclosed a summary of these vigils for your records. We are pleased to have mobilized 7,000 people of faith in 133 cities and 31 states.

Through our work building the momentum and energy of the faith community, the message of family unity and bringing a moral tone to the immigration debate will overcome voices promoting fear and hatred of the stranger.

You are a champion on these issues and we thank you for your unwavering commitment to families. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

American Jewish Committee
Church World Service, Immigration and Refugee Program
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Interfaith Worker Justice
Irish Apostolate USA
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Mennonite Central Committee, Washington Office
National Advocacy Center, Sisters of the Good Shepherd
NETWORK
Presbyterian Church USA
Sojourners
The Episcopal Church
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Union for Reform Judaism