



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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RAISE Act Opposition

Catholic Charities of the East Bay is opposed to the RAISE Act, introduced by Senators Tom Cotton of Arkansas and David Perdue of Georgia. If enacted, the bill would undermine the strength of the American family by making it harder for naturalized American citizens to gain legal immigration status for their children (over age 18) and for brothers and sisters. It would cut the number of Permanent Resident, or "Green," Cards issued per year, making it harder to live and work in our nation with legal documentation.

Equally troubling, the RAISE Act would hamper our nation's ability to respond to global humanitarian emergencies by permanently capping the number of refugees we could welcome to our shores. Such arbitrary caps are the hallmark of poor public policy.

We believe that immigration reform is needed to achieve reasonable remedies and clear paths for people seeking a new home or family reunification in the United States. The RAISE Act is counter to compassionate reform and will harm our communities and our country by keeping families apart.

This Act is similar to other periods of history marked by fear towards newcomers from Italy, Ireland, China, and Poland and towards people of Catholic or Jewish faith. The names and nationalities of those targeted may have changed, but the fear remains equally harmful to the moral fabric of our society.

Catholic Charities and other faith communities have a long history of welcoming newcomers, who enliven our heritage and contribute to the vigor and success of our nation, many achieving the highest levels of leadership in a diversity of fields. This is the foundation of America's greatness.

The RAISE Act is opposed by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Migration