



Humanitarian Standards for Individuals in Customs and Border Protection Custody Act

- This bill requires that Customs and Border Protection conduct health screenings for all individuals in custody, provide basic living necessities (water, sanitation, etc.), and allow the Department of Homeland Security Inspector General to conduct unannounced inspections of facilities in order to ensure accountability.
- For immigrants in detention camps, the Department of Homeland Security estimates the current cost per adult detainee per day as \$133.99. The cost of housing an immigrant under the standards proposed by this bill should be similar to that of housing a prisoner. According to the Federal Register, the average cost per prisoner per day was \$99.45, as of 2017. However, we expect this bill to cause an increase in the price per detainee per day, due to expenses such as doctors' salaries. Conversely, having a uniform set of standards for treatment of detainees may decrease administrative costs.

MAP's Perspective on H.R. 3239

MAP supports this bill because it raises standards in immigration detention centers to an acceptable degree. The issues of unethical treatment of immigrants in detention have been thoroughly documented and must be resolved. This bill would ensure the protection of the health and safety of immigrants by instituting a national framework for the treatment of detained immigrants.

Youth Perspective on Immigration

Justice should be rehabilitative and reasonable; it is unreasonable for any individual to be detained in centers under squalid conditions for indefinite periods of time. At the very least, regulation should ensure that basic needs such as a healthy diet and proper hygiene are met. However, current statutes allow for teenage and adult detainees at immigration centers to be subject to harsh, inhumane treatment—an experience that eradicates any shred of their dignity. A person's migratory status should never eliminate their basic human rights.

- The top complaint received from people in immigration detention is medical neglect/abuse.
- Based on recent unannounced visits to Border Patrol facilities, government investigators have flagged serious concerns [. . .] saying the conditions "represent an immediate risk to the health and safety" of immigration officials and detainees.

Catholic Perspective on this Issue

The Catholic Church believes that no one should be stripped of their dignity and put under such inhumane conditions, especially when they are not committing any criminal acts. Immigration detention is not solely a concern over public policy issue; rather, it is an issue of the immigrants' basic human rights. Currently, detainees are deprived of such resources; they are forced to use wet wipes to bathe and have limited access to a change of clothes, to name a few. Our inability to fulfill even basic moral responsibilities is astounding. Yet, fortunately, through this piece of legislation, we have the opportunity to reverse this alarming trend and ensure that human dignity is preserved for all detainees.