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NEWS RELEASE

Border Bishops Oppose Second Reconciliation Bill

ALBUQUERQUE—Wednesday, May 20, 2026—IMMEDIATE RELEASE Fourteen Catholic bishops, including the heads of several dioceses along the US-Mexico border, today opposed budget reconciliation legislation appropriating \$72 billion to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for immigration enforcement purposes.

In their letter of opposition, the bishops expressed their "grave concern" with the additional DHS funding: "As pastors, we remain troubled by how immigrants, the vast majority of whom have committed no crimes and have built equities in the country, have become targets for enforcement, with their God-given human dignity and human rights being violated on a daily basis."

DHS received an unprecedented \$142 billion in immigration enforcement funding in 2025 through the administration's first reconciliation measure, known as the "One Big, Beautiful Bill." The bishops opposed an additional reconciliation funding bill unless several changes were made to how DHS conducts immigration enforcement activities, as outlined in a [February 24 statement](#) by 20 bishops.

In their request to Congress, the bishops concluded: "We ask that you support these recommended changes and work to include as many of them as possible in this second reconciliation measure. If none, or an insufficient number of these reforms to immigration enforcement are included in the bill, we respectfully ask that you oppose the legislation."

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