



**Dane  
Sanctuary  
Coalition**

July 4, 2022

Representative Robin Vos  
Rm. 217 W  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Senator Devin LeMahieu  
Rm. 211 S  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Representative Vos and Senator LeMahieu:

We are thankful that Wisconsin has welcomed refugees from Afghanistan and may welcome refugees from Ukraine as well.

However, we cannot forget the 75,000 undocumented immigrants in Wisconsin who work tirelessly, and have been working for decades, at all stages of food production, construction, services, health care, and more. Their work is essential to keep Wisconsinites fed, **the dairy industry alive**, and the Wisconsin economy going. They pay approximately **\$101 million** in state taxes and contribute to Social Security, but receive no benefits, even throughout the pandemic.

Our undocumented immigrant neighbors and friends, and the 43,000 US citizen children living with them in Wisconsin, deserve to live with dignity, free of fear, insecurity, and anguish. We must allow them to live in peace and to thrive. Otherwise, Wisconsinites will continue to live with generations of traumatized children who become traumatized adults. The time for change is now.

As people of faith, we urgently ask you, at the very least, to:

- Allow driver's licenses/permits for undocumented immigrants (15 states allow this, including Utah and Virginia)
- Allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at Wisconsin colleges (17 states allow this, including Texas, Arkansas, Florida, Kansas, Nebraska, and Utah)

We trust that your hearts will open, and that you will welcome the stranger and treat our immigrant siblings with justice and compassion.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Bonnie Margulis  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice  
Organizer – Dane Sanctuary Coalition

Members of the Dane Sanctuary Coalition: (congregations listed for identification purposes only)

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