Catholics Headed to Washington to Protest Immigration Bill

Three busloads of area Catholics will depart St. Patrick Catholic Church in Fells Point at 1 p.m. today for Washington, where they will rally against a recent immigration bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives that emphasizes enforcement measures against illegal immigrants.

Cardinal William H. Keeler, Archbishop of Baltimore, addressing the Catholic Community of St. Michael and St. Patrick this past weekend, called the measure "draconian", adding "it insists on standards that are impossible to apply and will penalize so many who are coming from outside the United States to see a better way of life here. What we're looking for as a Church is that there will be some openness to people coming to this country and also that there be some restrictions, but what the House of Representatives has fashioned is way, way beyond the range of Christian teaching."

For more information on the Catholic Church's position on this issue, visit the website for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org.

WHAT: DEPARTURE FOR IMMIGRATION BILL RALLY

WHERE: ST. PATRICK CATHOLIC CHURCH, BROADWAY AND BANK STREET

WHEN: TODAY, MARCH 7 AT 1 P.M.