

IT'S TIME TO FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

Though we hail from across the spectrum and differ on many issues, we come together to call on Congress and the President to fix our broken immigration system.

This broken system undermines our security and erodes the integrity of our laws. We need to retake control of our borders, and restore the rule of law.

But increased enforcement *alone* will not solve the problem. We need to do more than simply crack down on illegal immigration.

To fix the system, we need to create legal channels for workers coming to do jobs we need done to keep our economy growing. Some of these workers will go home eventually, but given demographic trends, we will need some of them to stay permanently.

Once we have more realistic laws, we can enforce them more effectively, with added resources on the border and a new commitment to legality in the interior.

We also need to find a solution for the estimated 11 million unauthorized workers already living in the U.S. It's not realistic to deport them, nor should we create a permanent caste of second-class workers, legal or illegal.

Though no one wants to reward illegal behavior, we must find a way for these workers to come forward, make good on the past and participate in a program that leads to permanent residency and full participation in our society.

We call on leaders of both parties to come together to solve this problem. We applaud Senators McCain and Kennedy and Congressmen Kolbe, Flake and Gutierrez for starting the conversation with a thoughtful proposal. We look forward to the efforts of Senators Cornyn and Kyl in building on that foundation. And we urge President Bush to work with leaders of both chambers in enacting reform in this Congress.

Frustrated as we all are, few Americans want to build a wall along our borders. We must fix our broken system so that we can remain a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws.



American Health Care Association
American Hotel and Lodging Association
American Immigration Lawyers Association
American Jewish Committee
American Nursery and Landscape Association
Essential Worker Immigration Coalition
Grover G. Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform
International Franchise Association
Jeff Bell, Principal, Capital City Partners
Laborers' International Union of North America
League of United Latin American Citizens
Linda Chavez, President, Center for Equal Opportunity
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund
National Council of La Raza
National Immigration Forum
National Restaurant Association
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Service Employees International Union
Tamar Jacoby, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute
The Latino Coalition
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