

# FIX OUR BROKEN IMMIGRATION SYSTEM

**We hail from across the spectrum and differ on many issues, but we are coming together to call on Congress and the President to fix our broken immigration system.**

The 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 have a blanket return requirement that would be disruptive to our economy and risk stranding our workers abroad while simultaneously creating a disincentive to come forward; 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 eventual citizenship.

It is also necessary to address visa backlogs which undermine the faith that the government can construct a process that, in real terms, works.

We call on leaders of both parties to come together to solve this problem and we urge President Bush to work with both chambers to enact realistic, meaningful reform during 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.



Associated Builders and Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of America  
American Hotel and Lodging Association  
American Immigration Lawyers Association  
American Jewish Committee  
American Meat Institute  
American Nursery and Landscape Association  
Essential Worker Immigration Coalition  
Grover G. Norquist, President, Americans for Tax Reform  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Linda Chavez, Chairman, Center for Equal Opportunity  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials Educational Fund  
National Association of Home Builders  
National Immigration Forum  
National Restaurant Association  
National Council of Chain Restaurants  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors - National Association  
Service Employees International Union  
Society of American Florists  
Tamar Jacoby, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute  
The Latino Coalition  
UNITE/HERE  
United Farm Workers of America  
United Food and Commercial Workers Union  
United Fresh Fruit & Vegetable Association  
US Chamber of Commerce