



November 20, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

AILA National Office  
Suite 300  
1331 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC  
20005-3142

Tel: 202.507.7600  
Fax: 202.783.7853

[www.aila.org](http://www.aila.org)

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) writes to express its disappointment that the House of Representatives has yet to bring any immigration reform bills to the House for a vote. We are concerned by the marked shift in tone by House Leadership since the government shut-down indicating an intention not to address immigration reform this calendar year. While AILA understands the political difficulties involved in the immigration debate, all available evidence indicates that a majority of the House and an overwhelming majority of Americans support common sense immigration reform, including a plan that enables the undocumented to legalize and eventually achieve full status as Americans.

AILA is the national association of immigration lawyers with more than 13,000 members. It was established in 1946 to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. Our attorneys interact daily with the nation's immigration system and continually express frustration over its failure to keep families together, encourage entrepreneurship, and respect due process.

Every day we wait for the House to act, our broken immigration laws continue to destabilize families, businesses, and our nation's economy. Law enforcement officials, businesses, and faith and community leaders have become increasingly vocal about the urgency of reform. Under the Obama administration, detention and deportations have proceeded aggressively and continue to tear families apart, placing many U.S. citizen children in the foster care system. Further, each day that we do not pass immigration reform, the U.S. loses potential revenue and a much needed economic boost. Evidence shows that reform would increase U.S. Gross Domestic Product by 3.3 percent (\$700 billion) in 2023 and 5.4 percent (\$1.4 trillion) in 2033.<sup>1</sup> But currently businesses continue to lack access to critical workers they need in many sectors of our economy including agriculture, high tech, and hospitality among others. Finally, immigration reform would also help to reduce the federal budget deficit by about \$1.2 trillion cumulatively.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> See Congressional Budget Office, *The Economic Impact of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act*, available at: <http://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/44346-Immigration.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Bipartisan Policy Center, *Immigration Reform: Implications for Growth, Budgets, and Housing*, available at: [http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/BPC\\_Immigration\\_Economic\\_Impact.pdf](http://bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/BPC_Immigration_Economic_Impact.pdf).

There are many parts to our immigration system, and they all must be addressed. Each aspect of our immigration system must be improved and updated or the whole system will remain broken. In determining how the House should work its will on immigration reform, your leadership is necessary to ensure that the end product creates a common sense, workable immigration system that will serve America's needs now and in the future.

We continue to hold you responsible for ensuring that immigration reform receives a vote on the House floor. We continue to expect movement. The need for immigration reform does not end because of the holidays and end of the calendar year. AILA urges the House to enact the best possible law that meets our nation's needs, ensures our borders are safe and secure, provides for our national security, protects civil and human rights, and ensures due process.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to contact Gregory Chen, AILA's Director of Advocacy, [gchen@aila.org](mailto:gchen@aila.org), 202/507-7615.

Sincerely,



T. Douglas Stump  
President



Crystal Williams  
Executive Director