



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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Dear Representative:

Fixing our nation's broken immigration laws is among the most important issues of interest to America's mayors currently before the U.S. House of Representatives. We believe strongly that maintaining the status quo will further damage the economic, political and social structure of our cities and our country. As Mayors, we have a ground-level understanding of the pressing economic and moral imperatives that necessitate changing our national immigration system, and we urge the House to expeditiously bring legislation to the floor.

- Like the constituents we serve, we believe that a meaningful fix to immigration must begin with a strengthening of border security. Further, interior enforcement should be improved to enhance our ability to identify and remove visa overstays, but our state and local law enforcement must be able to remain focused on community policing.
- We believe the nation would benefit from a less bureaucratic and more time-sensitive system that allows workers of all types - seasonal, agricultural, lesser-skilled and high skilled – to lawfully come to America, either temporarily or permanently, and contribute to our economy.
- As we fix immigration, we must also provide a uniform system of employment verification. We recognize that competing technologies and approaches exist and believe they should be tested against one another in determining the best manner for accurately authenticating workers.
- There are equally compelling moral dimensions also related to fixing immigration that underscore the importance of moving forward with the effort. We believe that it is vital for any immigration legislation to enable people to come out of the shadows and fully pursue the American Dream for themselves and their families. This is also essential to our efforts to combat crime and provide effective police protection for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We believe the time is ripe for Congress to pass legislation that fixes immigration and creates a system that builds our economy, meets the nation's future workforce requirements, eliminates the incentives to enter the country illegally, humanely deals with the undocumented persons already here, and works to keep families together.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith, Mayor of Mesa, AZ, President
Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA, Vice President
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD, Second Vice President
Raul G. Salinas, Mayor of Laredo, TX, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force
Tom Tait, Mayor of Anaheim, CA, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force

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Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora, CO
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Joy Cooper, Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL
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"Mayita" Melendez Altieri, Ponce, PR
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Andy Ryder, Mayor of Lacey, WA
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Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma, WA
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Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI
John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, WI