

**FEATURED
ISSUE**

SAYING YES TO IMMIGRATION

It is time to say YES to Comprehensive Immigration Reform!
FOR THE BENEFIT OF TAXPAYERS, WORKERS, EMPLOYERS, AMERICA AS A WHOLE



A new report, “*Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform*,” by Dr. Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda, finds that comprehensive immigration reform that includes a legalization program for unauthorized immigrants and enables a future flow of legal workers would result in a

LARGE ECONOMIC BENEFIT:

- A cumulative \$1.5 trillion in added U.S. GDP over 10 years
- An increase in tax revenues of \$4.5-\$5.4 billion in the first 3 years
- An increase in consumer spending—enough to support 750,000–900,000 jobs in the US

IN CONTRAST, a deportation-only policy would result in a loss of \$2.6 trillion in GDP over 10 years.

Source: *Immigration Policy Center*

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WILL CREATE NEW TAXPAYERS, RAISE NEW REVENUE, CUT ENFORCEMENT COSTS, AND ESSENTIALLY HELP OUR ECONOMY RECOVER

- While undocumented workers are ineligible for almost all federal public assistance programs, between 1/2 and 3/4 of undocumented workers *pay* federal and state income taxes, Social Security, and Medicare taxes. Fixing the immigration system and giving them a path to legalization would enable everyone to pay into the tax system.
- Trying to eliminate the undocumented workforce through enforcement-only policies such as E-verify would only result in *decreased* tax revenues. The Congressional Budget Office concluded that mandatory E-Verify would decrease federal revenues by \$17.3 billion between 2009 and 2018, mainly because it would result in an increase in the number of workers who are being paid outside the tax system.

- Research shows that immigrants are 30% more likely to form new businesses than U.S. born citizens. In fact, immigrants—including the unauthorized—*create* jobs through their purchasing power, buying goods and services from U.S. businesses and their entrepreneurship, creating their own businesses, both of which sustain U.S. jobs.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD REAFFIRM THE AMERICAN VALUES OF HARD WORK AND FAIRNESS, AND BUILD STRONGER FAMILIES

- Our current immigration laws filled with visa quotas and other delays can keep members apart for years or even decades. Depending on the situation, it can take an average of almost 5 years for a legal permanent resident to get a visa for his or her spouse or young child, and 10 years to get a visa for a son or daughter who is over the age of 21. A comprehensive legislation should regulate this situation *significantly* so that

future immigration is controlled, orderly, and legal.

- According to the Pew Hispanic Center, 3 million US citizens have at least 1 undocumented parent. Under our current system, these children of “mixed-status” families live under fear and threat that they will either be separated from their parents or forced to leave their home country: the United States. Immigration reform should allow them to grow up in *stable* American families.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD ENSURE THAT ALL WORKERS ARE HERE WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION, RESTORING FAIRNESS AND LABOR STANDARDS

- A legalization process will *bring up* the wages for all workers in the United States. According to a report by the Center for American Progress and the Immigration Policy Center, comprehensive immigration reform that includes a

The immigration issue in the United States represents a lot more than just a broken system. For many families, it represents a daily struggle guided by great uncertainty, anxiety, and fear.

- legalization program would **increase** the real wages of less-skilled legalized workers by \$4,405 per year. At the same time, higher-skilled workers would see a yearly wage increase of \$6,185 per year.

YES: COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM WOULD REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION, RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW AND MAINTAIN AMERICAN SAFETY

- The Police Foundation has found that 74% of police chiefs are concerned that immigration enforcement will have a **negative effect** on community relations by decreasing the trust the entire community feels toward police. Comprehensive immigration reform would enable police to rebuild trusting relationships with their communities, reducing community tensions and allegations related to racial profiling.
- Numerous studies by independent researchers and government commissions over the past 100 years consistently have found that immigrants are less likely to commit crimes or be behind bars than the native-born. Although the undocumented immigrant population **doubled** to

about 12 million from 1994 to 2005, the violent crime rate in the US **declined** by 34.2% and the property crime rate fell by 26.4%. This is not surprising since immigrants come here to pursue economic and educational opportunities not available in their home countries and to build better lives for themselves and their families.

YES TO EDUCATION: THE DREAM ACT CREATES ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

- A 2010 study by the UCLA North American Integration and Development Center estimates that the total earnings of DREAM Act beneficiaries over the course of their working lives would be between \$1.4 trillion and \$3.6 trillion. Enabling undocumented youth to access higher education would go a long way, **boosting** the number of highly skilled American workers. As they take their place in the workplace as hard working,

The Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act is a bipartisan legislation introduced by Sen. Hatch [R-UT] and Sen. Durbin [D-IL] that will enable undocumented youth to be eligible for a 6 year long conditional path to citizenship that requires completion of a college degree or 2 years of military service.



There are an estimated **1.9 million undocumented children** and young adults in the United States who might be eligible for the DREAM Act.

taxpaying Americans, they will contribute a lifetime of revenues at the local, state and federal level.

YES: THE DREAM ACT WOULD KEEP TALENTED STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES

- Letting the talent of many DREAM Act eligible students go to waste imposes economic costs on today's society. The DREAM Act would stop the brain drain by allowing our most determined and brightest students to remain in the US.
- The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that many of the occupations that will be most in demand in years to come will rely on highly educated workers. Of the 15 occupations projected to grow at least twice as fast as the national average, 10 require an associate degree or higher. For this reason, passing the DREAM Act is necessary to help these **talented students** gain access to postsecondary educational opportunities and the workforce as documented residents.



WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- **Contact Congress & your elected officials TODAY-** let them know how important it is to pass comprehensive immigration and the DREAM Act for the benefit of the country.
- **Get informed & Get Involved-** Educate yourself and build an opinion. For more resources, check out IJPC Immigration Resources Page at www.ijpc-cincinnati.org/immigration/immigration-resources

HOW TO HELP SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN ARRESTED AND DETAINED

- **Gather Information about your friend:** Name, birth date, immigration status, etc.
- **Locate your friend:** If ICE arrested him/her, you can check the online Detainee Locator System at www.ice.gov/locator. If its local police, call the county jail.
- **Call the jail:** Ask if there are the criminal charges, if there is a bond, an ICE hold and the next criminal court date.
- **Call ICE:** Ask if they will release your friend or set an immigration bond. If your friend has an ICE hold, do NOT pay your friend's criminal bail unless ICE is releasing them or an immigration lawyer has instructed you to do so.
- **Find a Lawyer:** a. **Criminal Defense Attorney-** if your friend has charges against them.
b. **Immigration Attorney-** If your friend has an ICE detainer or has been picked up by ICE. A good place to look is www.aialawyer.com.
This is not legal advice. Whenever possible, you should consult a lawyer about your particular case.