

12 - Immigration

Immigrants strengthen America. All immigrants should be afforded full human rights and a fair, safe, and timely path to legal status.

We believe:

- All people, regardless of their country of origin or their legal status, deserve to be treated fairly, respectfully, and with dignity, and that all people have a right to equal treatment under the law;
- All children regardless of immigration status are entitled to education to provide them the knowledge and skills to be productive members of society;
- In allowing access to health care and human services without regard to immigration status; withholding those services is discriminatory and inhumane;
- Migrant workers deserve safe and adequate housing and sanitary facilities;
- Immigration arises from global displacement and disproportionate distribution of wealth, and is not a matter of Homeland Security.

We call for:

- United States immigration policy to undergo comprehensive reform, protecting the integrity of our borders while recognizing the basic human rights of immigrants and protecting them with transparent due process in all proceedings and a clear pathway to legal status and citizenship if desired;
- Passage of the Uniting American Families Act to increase family unification, including families of same-sex and bi-national couples;
- Allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children who have attained the age of majority to apply for U.S. citizenship without first being required to return to their country of origin;
- Reintroduction and passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act), which allows children of undocumented immigrants temporary residency to allow them to pursue higher education and to be given an opportunity to earn permanent residency;
- Enforcement of the laws which penalize employers who knowingly employ undocumented immigrants.
- Policies that more fully integrate and support immigrants as equal members of our communities, including programs offering immigrants instruction in English and preparation for citizenship;
- Clearing the immigration backlog;
- An end to deportation or detention, without due process of law, of any person who is a primary or sole caregiver for a minor child or disabled dependent;

- 42 • Streamlining and expediting procedures for granting asylum to persons
43 fleeing from areas of war, genocide, and political oppression, subject to
44 appropriate security concerns;
- 45 • Provisions to prevent discrimination in wages and working conditions for
46 immigrant workers, including access to safe and adequate housing, medical
47 care and educational opportunities, so that they will be protected from
48 exploitation and American workers will be protected from being undercut by
49 employers taking advantage of an illegal and exploited workforce;
- 50 • Using diplomacy and sustainable development to improve the social,
51 economic and environmental conditions that contribute to illegal immigration
52 into the United States
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54 **We oppose:**

- 55 • State or local police involvement in the enforcement of federal immigration
56 laws;
- 57 • Efforts to deputize, commission, finance, or otherwise encourage vigilante
58 border militia groups in the United States;
- 59 • Automatic detention and/or deportation of asylum-seekers;
- 60 • Legislative attempts to establish English as the sole official language of the
61 United States.