

Current Position on Immigration Reform August/September 2013



The Latino Policy Forum Position on current efforts for immigration reform in 2013

The Forum understands that it is imperative to the economic and social well-being of the United States that the existing immigration system be reformed to reflect the current day economic and social realities of the country. Today's immigration systems are outdated and suffer from many broken elements which continue to strain our nation's and states' economies. In addition, U.S. families are being dramatically and negatively affected by mass deportations - tearing families apart while requiring some others to wait decades to be reunited with their loved ones. This attack on the family is also draining our economy and social fabric.

Earlier this year, the Forum released [seven principles](#) it aspires for in any comprehensive bill. To date, not all the issues we are concerned with have been adequately addressed. It is the Forum's position that without addressing all these elements, the immigration system will continue to be broken and that true comprehensive immigration reform remains a long-term goal.

However, we understand that real reform in 2013 is at its best chance in years and that current efforts will begin addressing many of the elements we are concerned with. Specifically, we are asking that the Congressional leaders and the President consider the following while immigration reform continues to be addressed in Congress:

- **Suspend Deportations Now:** The immediate suspension of deportations of immigrants whose sole infraction is residing in the U.S. without authorization, and the release of detained immigrants without any violent criminal background.
- **Fair Access to Citizenship:** Immigration reform should include a swift, fair and humane access to legal permanent residency, which puts people on a direct path to citizenship.
- **Keep our Families Together:** Reunification of families, including elimination of waiting times greater than one year in the family visa petition system.
- **Oppose the militarization of the Southern U.S. Border:** Excess militarization as proposed in current legislative proposals is not only wasteful, but sends a clear message to Mexico and other Central and Southern American countries that the United States does not intend to maintain peaceful and diplomatic relations with its neighbors.

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