August 22, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

As you spend this August recess in your home districts, we urge you to listen closely to the message that has been echoing across the country: the time for workable and humane immigration reform is now. Any serious proposal for overhauling our broken immigration system must include a realistic path to citizenship for our nation’s 11 million aspiring citizens. It also must treat all immigrants with dignity by ensuring they have not only the same responsibilities as other Americans, but also the same opportunities to be healthy and productive and to fully contribute to their communities. In particular, immigrants on the road to citizenship should have the opportunity to pay their fair share for affordable health care, attain economic stability and have access to nutrition assistance.

We appreciate the tremendous efforts of the Senate in passing a bipartisan bill with a comprehensive framework. At the same time, we remain concerned by the bill’s restrictions to health care and nutrition assistance for all immigrants on the road to citizenship – including children and pregnant women – for up to 10-13 years or longer. During these years, immigrants on a legal path to citizenship will have to pay the same taxes as other working Americans but will be shut out of programs their taxes fund – such as Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP – in times of need.

Immigrants perform jobs that are essential to making our nation run, such as harvesting our food, caring for our children and elderly parents, and building our communities. These are working families with children – 82 percent of whom are U.S. citizens. We ask that you ensure that immigrants have access to programs that are necessary for them to achieve economic self-sufficiency and fully contribute to our nation. This includes protecting the integrity of our tax code and Social Security system by placing the same requirements and allowing the same opportunities for all taxpaying wage-earners – including immigrants on the path to citizenship.

Please fight to ensure that the children of immigrants and their families have the opportunity to pay their fair share for health care coverage, have access to nutrition assistance when they need it, and that our nation’s taxpayers can all fully participate in our tax programs and Social Security system. Immigration reform that includes these opportunities is an investment worth making. Allowing immigrants to achieve their full economic and social potential and to fully integrate into their communities will make our nation even stronger.

National
9to5
Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER)
AFL-CIO
AIDS United
Alliance of Baptists
Alliance for a Just Society
Alliance for Children & Families
America’s Voice Educational Fund
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
American Friends Service Committee
American Public Health Association
Americans for Immigrant Justice
Arab American Institute
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Augustinians
Border Action Network
Breakthrough
Campaign for Community Change (CCC)
Canadian Treatment Action Council (CTAC)
Care2
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network for Healthy Families and Communities
Center for Law and Social Policy
Center for Women Policy Studies
Centering Healthcare Institute
Children's Health Fund
Church World Service
Citizens Council for Human Rights & Salaam Legal Network
Coalition on Human Needs
Colltales
Community Action Partnership
Community Catalyst
Community of St. Francis
Congregation of St. Joseph
Congregation of St. Joseph Immigration Committee
Congregation of St. Joseph Justice Team
Dab the AIDS Bear Project
Dignity Health
Direct Care Alliance
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Dominican University
Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
Franciscan Action Network
Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement
Good Shepherd Immigration Study Group
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters USA, JPIC
Housing Works
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, UAW
JPICC-C Sisters of Saint Francis
Latino Commission on AIDS
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR)
Leadership Council of the Adrian Dominican Sisters
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Metropolitan Community Churches
Migrant Clinicians Network
National Asian Pacific Women’s Forum
National Benedictines For Peace
National Center for Law and Economic Justice
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Community Tax Coalition
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
National Council on Aging
National Domestic Workers Alliance
National Employment Law Project
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Council on Aging
National Hispanic Media Coalition
National Immigration Law Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Minority AIDS Council
National Senior Citizens Law Center
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
National Working Positive Coalition
Occupy AIDS
Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI) · Quality Care through Quality Jobs
PICO National Network
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Pre-Health Dreamers
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Project Inform
Provincial Council of the Clerics of St. Viator (Viatorians)
Raising Women’s Voices for the Health Care We Need
Renew and Sustain
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
School-Based Health Alliance
School Sisters of St. Francis
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Single Stop USA, Inc.
Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters
Sisters and Brothers of Immigrants
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Central Leadership
Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Western Province Leadership
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sisters of Mercy
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross
Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate
Socialist Aotearoa
Society of the Divine Savior
SocioEnergetics Foundation
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
Step Up Center International
Suarez Law Firm
The Global Justice Institute
The Hat Project
The Praxis Project
Union of the Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. · U. S. Province
United Methodist Church
United Sikhs
United We Dream Network
Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Women's Refugee Commission
Young Invincibles

State & Local
9to5 Atlanta
9to5 California
9to5 Colorado
9to5 Wisconsin
A Support Alliance
Access AIDS Network
ACT UP/East Bay
Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee of the Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia
Advocates for Children and Youth
Advocates for Responsible Care
African Services Committee
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action Coalition
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS Legal Council of Chicago
Alianza Mezicana
All Saints Church Pasadena
Archdiocesan Youth Employment
Arizona League of United Latin American Citizens
Asian American Pacific Islander Christians for Social Justice
Asian Americans Advancing Justice · Los Angeles
Asian Law Alliance
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance·DC (APALA DC)
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center
Asian Services in Action
Assisting Latinos
Benedictine Sisters of Chicago
Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel, Oregon
Cal·Islanders Humanitarian Association
California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology (CAMLT)
California Communities United Institute
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Partnership
California Primary Care Association
Campaign for Better Health Care, Illinois
Carmelite Sisters of Charity
Casa Latina
Casa San Jose
Catholic Charities Community Services, Arizona
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
Center for Active Nonviolence and Peacemaking
Center for HIV Law & Policy
Center for Interfaith Encounter
Children Now
Children's Alliance
Chinese Progressive Association, San Francisco
Church of St. Andrew
Claire Heureuse Community Center, Inc.
Clare Guest House
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles
Coalition for Justice
Coalition of Human Needs
Coalition of African Organisations on Food Security and Sustainable Development (COASAD)
COFACAN
Collaborative Center for Justice
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Community Access Services of WNY, Inc.
Community Service Society of New York
Congregational Leadership Team, Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
Connecticut Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Connecticut Association of Foster and Adoptive Parents
Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.
Connecticut Multicultural Health Partnership
Crossing Borders – Dubuque
DC Coalition on Long Term Care
Delaware HIV Consortium
Democratic Party of Rockingham County, North Carolina
Detroit Typographical Union
DEW Consultants, Inc.
Disabled in Action of Greater Syracuse Inc.
Dominican Sisters of Houston
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Dominican Sisters of Springfield
Earth Mama Health
Eastmont Community Center
Elba Central School
El Centro de Igualdad y Derechos
El Comité Pro-Reforma Migratoria y Justicia Social
El Quinto Sol de America
Entre Hermanos
Etsky Consulting
Faith Action Network
FALAM and D.C. Training Institute
Farmworker Association of Florida, Inc.
First Church in Windsor
Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy
Franciscans for Justice
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
Franciscans International of Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota
Fresno Interdenominational Refugee Ministries (FIRM, Inc.)
Georgia Rural Urban Summit
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Goddard Riverside Community Center·New York City
Gray Panthers Association of California Networks
Greater Rochester Coalition for Immigration Justice
Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Guadalupe Center
Guam Communications Network
Hawaii Chuuk Catholic Association
Health Action New Mexico
Health Care for All New York
Health Care for All Texas
High Flight Arts and Letters
Hispanic Senior Action Council
HIV Law Project
Houston Peace and Justice Center
Houston United/Unido
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition
Immaculate Conception Church
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
Immigration Family Support Network, Wichita, KS
Immigration Rights Task Force of the Unitarian Society of New Haven
Immigration Task Force of the Cal-Nevada Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church
Institute for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly, Inc.
Jacques Initiative
ISAAC (Immigrant Support And Assistance Center)
Jewish Community Action
Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles
Justice and Peace Committee, Sisters of St. Joseph of West Hartford, CT
Justice for Our Neighbors· Bay Area Immigration Taskforce
Kansas City Criminal Justice Task Force
Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)
Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kids for College
Korean Community Center of the East Bay
KPFT · 90.1 FM
La Esperanza C.C.
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
La Luz Hispana
Lambda Theta Phi Latin Fraternity, Inc., Gamma Kappa Chapter of Wayne State University
Land Stewardship Project
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Latino Education and Training Institute
Legal Assistance Resource Center of Connecticut
Lewis County Family Resource Network
LifeLinc of Maryland
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Loretto Community
Maryland United for Peace and Justice
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
Maternity Care Coalition
Mid-Peninsula American Dream Council
Midwest Capuchin Justice and Peace Office
Missouri Association for Social Welfare
Nashville CARES
National Council of Jewish Women, Illinois State Policy Advocacy Committee
National Council of Jewish Women, Louisiana State Policy Advocacy Committee
National Council of Jewish Women, Maine
National Council of Jewish Women, New Jersey State Policy Advocacy Network
National Council of Jewish Women, New York State Policy Advocacy Network
National Council of Jewish Women, Seattle Section
National Council of Jewish Women, South Florida Sections
National Council of Jewish Women, St. Louis Section
National Council of Jewish Women, Texas State Policy Advocacy Committee
NE Mercy Justice Council
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
New Concepts Community Support Services
New Mexico Asian Family Center
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Voices for Children
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Lawyers for the Public Interest
New York State Council of Churches
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Care
Ngo Hygie-enwerem Foundation
North Carolina Council of Churches
Northwest Health Law Advocates
NOW Miracle Mile LA Chapter
Ohio Asian American Health Coalition
Office of Peace and Justice
Office of Peace, Justice and Ecological Integrity, Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth
Ohio Poverty Law Center
One America
Oregon Province Society of Jesus
OSF Community
Ospital Farms
Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
OVO La Casa Amiga
Pacific Islanders Cancer Survivors
Pacifica KPFT
Parker & Associates
Partners in Healthy Communities
Pax Christi Florida
Pax Christi Illinois
Pax Christi Minnesota
Pax Christi USA of Rochester, Minnesota
Peace & Justice Office, Sisters of St. Francis
Pegasus Global Business Services, Inc.
Pennsylvania Council of Churches
PeterCares House
Pipe Organs/Golden Ponds Farm
Placer People of Faith Together
Prairiewoods
Presentation Lantern
Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen, SD
Progress Center for Independent Living
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada
Project CHARGE
Project IRENE
Prosperity Works
Public Justice Center
Queen of Angels Monastery
Reformed Church of Highland Park, NJ
Rekindling Reform
Religious Communities Against the Death Penalty
Religious Sisters of Charity
Research Institute Without Walls
Rural AIDS Action Network
Sacred Heart Community Service
Samuel U. Rodgers Health Center
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
San Francisco Community Clinic Consortium
San Francisco State University
Senior Legislative Action Committee of Sullivan County
Servants of Jesus
Sierra Club, Missouri
Silicon Valley Alliance for Immigration Reform
Sisters of Charity
Sisters of Mercy NyPPaW Justice Team
Sisters of Mercy, West Midwest Community
Sisters of Providence
Sisters of St. Francis
Sisters of St. Francis JPICC
Sisters of St. Francis of Dubuque, IA
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, PA
Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania, OH
Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace Western Region
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Sisters of St. Joseph of Springfield
Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon
Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, O'Fallon, Missouri
Sisters of the Presentation, Dubuque, IA
Sisters, Home Visitors of Mary
Sociedad de Empresarios Mexicanos
Southern AIDS Coalition
Southern Poverty Law Center
St. Ambrose of Woodbury Social Justice Committee
St. Anthony Outreach Ministry
St. Clare's Parish
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Street Works
Taas 'Laanaas Ravens of Kasaan
Tacoma Dominican Sisters and Associates
TakeAction Minnesota
Tennessee Justice Center
The Ave Project
The Center for HIV Law and Policy
Tidewater Equine
Uganda Community in Greater Chicago
United Church in Tallahassee
United Latino Voices
United Methodist Women
United Passaic Organization
United Way of Beaver County
Unity Fellowship Church NYC
Universal Light Ministries, Inc.
US Area Office of JPIC
Vancouver for Peace
Veterans Caucus
Violence Intervention Program
Vision y Compromiso
Voices for Utah Children
Voces de la Frontera
Waimanalo Health Center
Washington Community Action Network
Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
Wayne Action for Racial Equality
West Michigan Coalition for Immigration Reform
West Side Campaign Against Hunger
Westchester for Change
Wider Opportunities for Women
Wisconsin Network for Immigrant & Refugee Rights
Women of Vision NGO
WORD~ESL
Worker Justice Center of New York
YDI-Elev8 New Mexico