

Comprehensive Immigration Reform

- **Our immigration system is badly broken and needs to be fixed.**
 - **Our borders are out of control and our system is plagued by incredible backlogs and delays.** The evidence is all around us: millions of undocumented immigrants, exploited workers, divided families, deaths in the desert, fake documents, criminal smugglers, community tensions, and public frustration.
 - **Local communities are frustrated and divided.** Lack of action by the federal government is exacting an enormous toll on local communities. People are frustrated, communities are becoming divided, emotions are running unchecked, and our local officials—from police officers to elected officials—are at loss about how to deal with our dysfunctional immigration system.
- **We need realistic and comprehensive reform.**
 - **This is a time for real solutions, not empty gestures and political posturing.** Throwing more money at failed policies will not work. We need legislation that brings immigrants out of the shadows, shuts down smuggling operations and the black market in fake documents, restores the rule of law at our borders, in our workplaces, and in our communities, and encourages those who settle here to get on the path to lawful permanent status and eventual integration through citizenship.
 - **Most undocumented workers are law-abiding, hardworking individuals who pay their taxes and contribute to our society.** They are our neighbors, fellow worshippers, and friends. They are essential to many sectors of our economy. Many of them want to stay in America and be full-fledged members of our society, but they have no legal means to do so.
 - **Reform will make our nation more secure.** We need a fair, orderly, controlled system that reflects our nation's values and restores the rule of law. We need to know who is here and who is coming into our country. The way to control our borders and to increase our security is to reform our immigration laws so that legality becomes the norm once again.
- **To reform our immigration system effectively and realistically, we must enact comprehensive legislation along the lines of the bipartisan Secure America and Orderly Immigration Act. Such reform would:**
 - Match willing workers with willing employers.
 - Offer people already here the opportunity to earn their way to legal status by working, paying taxes, learning English, and being committed to American values.
 - Reunite close family members, some of whom have been separated for twenty years.
 - Enhance our enforcement efforts and security by helping us know who is here and keep out those who mean us harm.
 - Facilitate the cross-border flow of people and goods that is essential to our economy. A vibrant economy, in turn, is essential to fund our security needs.