

March 24, 2015

Dear Senator:

Thank you for your continued commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. We are writing to urge you to oppose any anti-immigration amendments offered to the Budget Resolution. Isolated attacks on immigrants undermine thoughtful, comprehensive policy change that will grow America's economy.

Immigrant workers perform some of the most essential jobs that make up the backbone of our economy and immigrant families make significant tax contributions at every level. These tax contributions include local, state and federal income taxes, as well as payroll taxes that bolster our Social Security and Medicare systems. A January 2015 Congressional Budget Office (CBO) report cited two studies that estimate that over 50 percent of unauthorized immigrant workers pay income taxes and payroll taxes. In 2010 alone, these workers contributed \$13 billion to the Social Security trust funds and \$10.6 billion in state and local taxes.

Despite these significant tax contributions, most immigrant workers may never be eligible to collect their earned benefits. Also, undocumented immigrants are already denied federal safety net assistance including TANF, SNAP, SSI, CHIP and non-emergency Medicaid. In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services lists 31 federal programs for which undocumented immigrants are ineligible. The Budget Resolution should not be used as a vehicle to further impoverish low-wage immigrants by changing tax law and disallowing eligibility for the earned income tax credit (EITC) and the refundable Child Tax Credit.

The benefits of immigration to our economy would increase even more if Congress passes immigration reform legislation. According to the Congressional Budget Office, comprehensive immigration reform (S.744) would reduce the federal budget deficit by nearly \$850 billion over the next 20 years, reduce the federal debt by 3% over 10 years, increase GDP by \$1.4 trillion over 20 years, add nearly \$300 billion to the Social Security Trust Fund, and increase real wages by 0.5% by 2033.

The President's Executive Actions also have a positive fiscal impact. The Congressional Budget Office found that eliminating the Deferred Action for Parental Accountability (DAPA) and the expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiatives would increase deficits through 2025 by a total of \$7.5 billion. The Council of Economic Advisors (CEA) found that the executive actions will reduce the federal deficits by \$25-\$60 billion by 2024. CEA also found that the actions increase GDP by 0.4%-0.9% over 10 years, which is \$90 billion-\$210 billion in real GDP, and the actions raise wages for U.S.-born workers by 0.3% by 2024.

Our country deserves a comprehensive immigration reform bill that will build our economy, enhance national security, protect all workers, modernize our legal immigration system, and keep families together. Our nation's immigration system, our

families, and our communities do not benefit from attacks against immigrants and their families. The solution is immigration reform and it is time for Congress to act.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

9to5

AFL-CIO

African American Ministers In Action

Alliance for a Just Society

Alliance for Citizenship

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)

American Federation of Teachers

American Immigration Lawyers Association

America's Voice Education Fund

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

ASISTA Immigration Assistance

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs

Caring Across Generations

Center for Community Change Action

Center for Law and Social Policy

Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness

Coalition on Human Needs

Dignity Health

Disciples of Christ, Refugee & Immigration Ministries

Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM)

Farmworker Justice

First Focus Campaign for Children

Franciscan Action Network

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Immigrant Legal Resource Center

Kids in Need of Defense (KIND)

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

League of United Latin American Citizens

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

MomsRising

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Council of Jewish Women

National Council of La Raza (NCLR)

National Council on Aging

National Education Association
National Employment Law Project
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Immigration Forum
National Immigration Law Center
National Latin@ Network
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
National Organization for Women
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
National Women's Law Center
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
RESULTS
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Single Stop
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Southern Poverty Law Center
Stand Up for Rural America
The Advocates for Human Rights
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Union for Reform Judaism
United We Dream
USAction
We Belong Together
ZERO TO THREE

Regional, State and Local Organizations

African Services Committee
Alliance San Diego
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-LA
California Immigrant Policy Center
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California Primary Care Association
CASA de Maryland
CASA de Virginia
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Florida Immigrant Coalition, Inc. (FLIC)
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights
Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota
LULAC Council 4609
Make the Road New York

Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
New Jersey Policy Perspective
New Orleans Workers' Center for Racial Justice
New Virginia Majority
North Carolina Justice Center
Northwest Health Law Advocates
OneAmerica
San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)
Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
The New York Immigration Coalition
Washington Defender Association's Immigration Project