



## COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

LULAC supports the “The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act” (S. 744), passed by the Senate, which proposes vital improvements to our current immigration system. LULAC maintains that this legislation provides a unique opportunity for members of the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress to make history. The House of Representatives must act swiftly in passing S. 744, in order to bring people out of the shadows so that they are able to contribute to all aspects of American culture, society, and economy. Comprehensive immigration reform is necessary to remedy our broken legal immigration system; a piecemeal approach is unacceptable.

### HOUSE PASSAGE OF S. 744 WOULD HELP THE AMERICAN ECONOMY

- ❖ The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that the bill would decrease federal budget deficits by \$158 billion over the 2014-2023 period and by \$685 billion over the 2024–2033 period.
- ❖ Passage of S. 744 would boost economic output and increase GDP by 3.3 percent in 2023 and by 5.4 percent in 2033.

### A PATHWAY TO U.S. CITIZENSHIP IS VITAL IN ANY HOUSE LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL

- ❖ S. 744 creates a process for many unauthorized residents to gain legal status, subject to meeting specified conditions. The bill also creates a pathway to U.S. citizenship for unauthorized residents currently living in the United States.
- ❖ The current Senate bill does not provide for amnesty, as it contains rigorous lawful presence requirements and mandates the payment of high fees.
  - Unauthorized residents must be lawfully present for 10 years before becoming permanent residents. These individuals will be able to apply for U.S. citizenship after maintaining permanent resident status for 3 years.
  - Therefore, current unauthorized residents will have to wait at least 13 years to become citizens.
- ❖ A pathway to US citizenship is a crucial element in the proposal that must be included in any legislation that moves forward in the House of Representatives.

### CONGRESSIONAL IMMIGRATION LEGISLATION THAT MOVES FORWARD MUST INCLUDE:

- ❖ A reasonable, realistic and legal path to citizenship, which guarantees the same benefits and rights granted to native-born citizens, to avoid the creation of a 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizenry;
- ❖ Legislation that supports strong family reunification standards;
- ❖ Create an effective and practical process for enough future workers to come to the United States to meet the needs of the low and high skilled job sectors of the economy, while ensuring strong worker protections;
- ❖ Legislation that provides agricultural employers with a stable, legal labor force while protecting farmworkers from exploitative working conditions;
- ❖ Legislation that allows undocumented immigrant children who have completed high school and are of good moral character to serve in the military or be admitted to colleges and universities as residents and eligible for in-state tuition, leading to citizenship.
- ❖ STEM legislation that encourages foreign graduate students to pursue advanced STEM degrees and go into STEM careers without offsetting them with the diversity lottery; and
- ❖ Legislation that addresses our enforcement needs in a manner that is just, and consistent with our existing due process and civil rights laws.