



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2006

Dear Majority Leader Frist:

We, the undersigned Members of Congress, write to ask for your assistance as you pursue comprehensive immigration reform during the second session of the 109th Congress.

We ask that the Senate focus the immigration debate on working solutions for immigration and border security improvement rather than emotion and politics.

It is our hope that as this issue moves forward that you do not use HR 4437 The Border Security Act as a model or starting point. Senator Cornyn has referred to elements of the bill as "a 19th century solution to 21st century issue", and we share the sentiment.

We ask that you consider the current state of immigration law and the impact it has on national security, working families, and the American economy. Realistically addressing these priorities should be the test of any immigration proposal.

We recommend that a few principles for comprehensive immigration reform be part of your evaluation, to address the root cause of the immigration crisis:

Create orderly, legal venues for new immigrants - The Department of Labor has stated there will be a shortage of two million workers in low-skilled occupations by 2010. Currently only 5000 low-skilled non-agricultural visas are available a year. The numbers and need do not match.

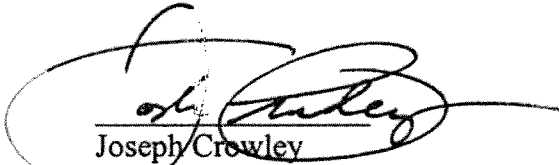
Earned Legalization – We need to create safe and legal ways for immigrants already here to declare their presence. This is not amnesty; it is requiring individuals to come out of the shadows, which assures security for all of us. It is a realistic approach and requires the undocumented to undergo disclosure and a legal process.

Enforcement Plus not Enforcement Only - Common-sense border enforcement must protect our national security but can not further militarize our border communities. Any enforcement plan must be combined with immigration changes.

Comprehensive Reform – Congress must pass comprehensive, not piecemeal, legislation that deals with all components in this debate.

Immigration is part of our history and identity as Americans. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to defend this legacy. Therefore we call upon you to update our immigration laws so that they are workable, realistic, and ensure security.

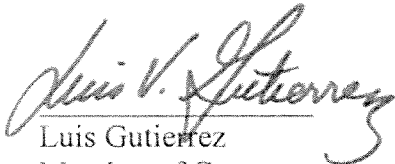
Sincerely,




Joseph Crowley
Member of Congress




Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Luis Gutierrez
Member of Congress



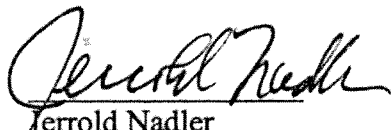
Mike Honda
Member of Congress



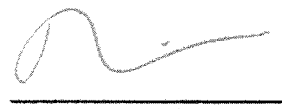
Hilda L. Solis
Member of Congress



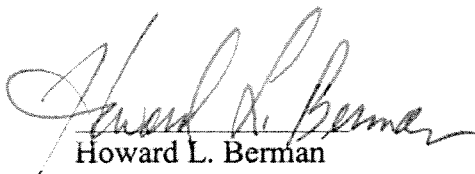
Sheila Jackson-Lee
Member of Congress



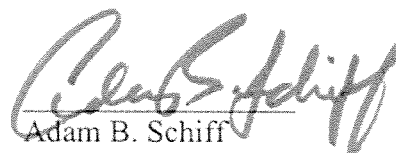
Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress




Anthony Weiner
Member of Congress




Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress



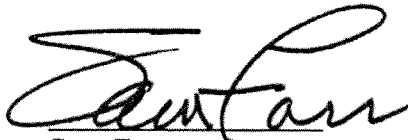
Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress




Xavier Becerra
Member of Congress



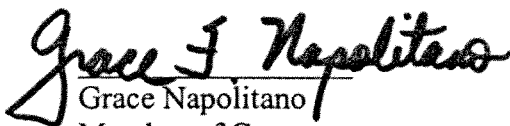
Ellen O. Tauscher
Member of Congress



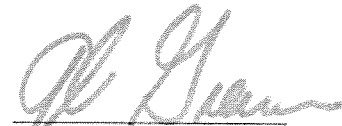
Sam Farr
Member of Congress



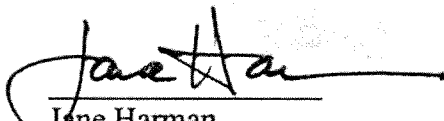
Lucille Roybal-Allard
Member of Congress




Grace Napolitano
Member of Congress




Al Green
Member of Congress




Jane Harman
Member of Congress



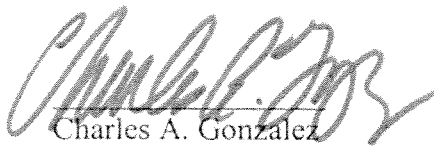
Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



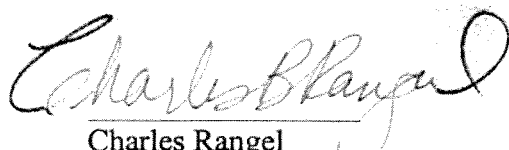
James P. Moran
Member of Congress




Charles A. Gonzalez
Member of Congress



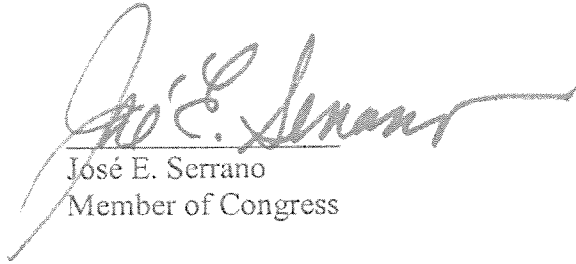
William Jefferson
Member of Congress



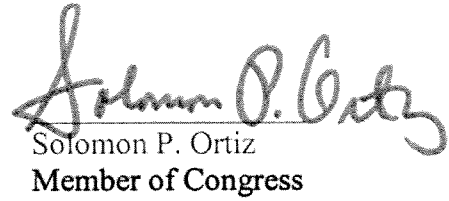
Charles Rangel
Member of Congress




Joe Baca
Member of Congress



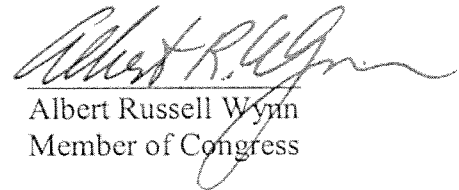
José E. Serrano
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Member of Congress



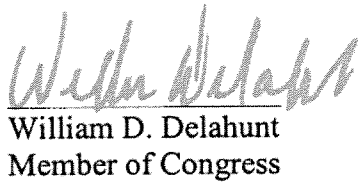
Solomon P. Ortiz
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Member of Congress



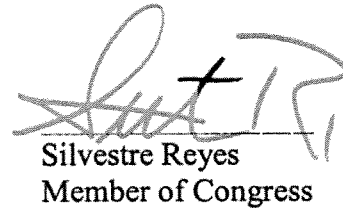
Rubén Hinojosa
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Member of Congress



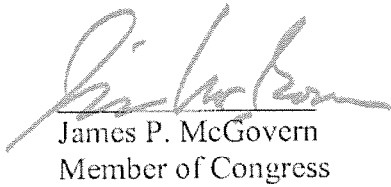
Albert Russell Wynn
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Member of Congress



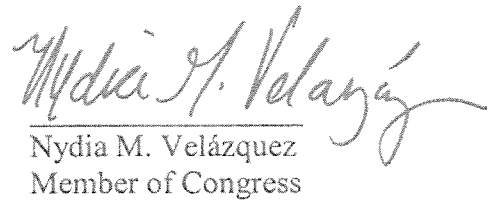
William D. Delahunt
William D. Delahunt
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress