

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

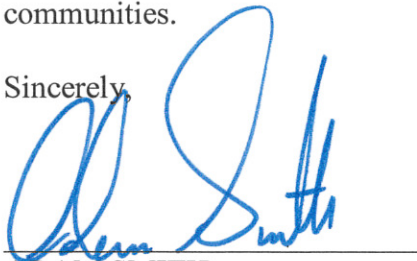
As Members of Congress, we write to commend you on your recent announcement regarding the inventory of current immigration enforcement practices that will determine how these practices can be carried out in a more humane manner, within the confines of the law. We also request that you consider expanding deferred action guidelines to provide deportation relief to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens, Legal Permanent Residents, and DREAMers.

We applaud your support and commitment to comprehensive immigration reform. However, while we continue to fight for a vote on comprehensive immigration reform in the House of Representatives, millions of undocumented immigrants continue to live in fear of deportation. Likewise, U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, and DREAMers live in fear of being torn apart from their families, and our communities suffer due to the loss of vibrant contributors to our economy. We urge you to continue to fight for prosecutorial discretion at all level of immigration enforcement proceedings. Factors such as ties to the community are critically important and most not be ignored. Immigration reform must also take into consideration judicial discretion and due process. Changes to our immigration laws have tied the hands of immigration judges, stripping them of their power to consider the individual circumstances of a case. Judicial discretion must be restored. Immigration judges have spoken of the need to better equip our benches to secure due process for all.

The number of people deported from the United States sharply increased in 1996 and has been on the rise, reaching an all time high in 2012 – more than double the number of people deported in 2002. As we move forward with immigration reform, we ask that you keep in mind the devastating impact that these deportations have on families and on our communities.

Thank you for your attention to our letter. We hope you take action on our temporary proposal, while we continue to work toward comprehensive immigration reform, and provide relief to our communities.

Sincerely,



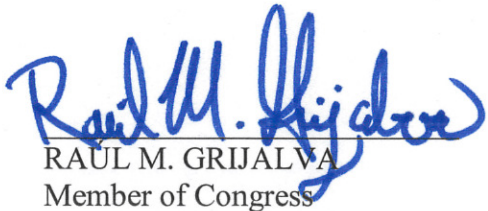
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress



BILL FOSTER
Member of Congress



ALAN LOWENTHAL
Member of Congress



RAUL M. GRIJALVA
Member of Congress



JAMES MORAN
Member of Congress



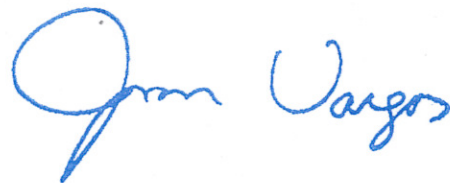
RUSH HOLT
Member of Congress



BETO O'ROURKE
Member of Congress



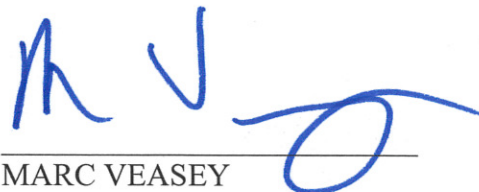
DEREK KILMER
Member of Congress



JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



MARC VEASEY
Member of Congress