

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 21, 2009

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of Congress who are deeply committed to repairing our broken immigration system, we would like to express our strong support for moving forward on fair and humane comprehensive immigration reform this year. It is imperative that we develop a practical solution that will regain control over the broken immigration system, strengthen the economy, and move this country forward. We must reaffirm America's tradition as both a nation of laws and a nation built on the strength of immigrants.

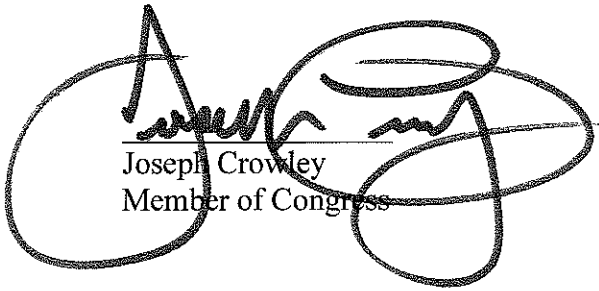
We all agree that our immigration system is broken and in desperate need of repair. We have an outdated immigration system, divided families and communities, and ineffective enforcement strategies. We must move forward with a commonsense, American solution that secures the border, protects the rights of all workers, and modernizes our legal immigration programs. A key element of this reform is requiring all undocumented immigrants to register, go through background checks, pay taxes, and study English in order to obtain legal status and be eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship.

This comprehensive approach will not only secure our borders, level the playing field for workers, and stop dishonest employers from gaining an unfair advantage, but it will bring in critical revenue by integrating more people into the economy as workers, taxpayers, and consumers. The other options – maintaining the status quo or trying to force 12 million undocumented immigrants to leave the country – are neither viable nor desirable.

We know you agree that action must be taken and we applaud you for starting the discussion on immigration reform by hosting a bicameral and bipartisan meeting on June 25th. Your leadership on this issue is invaluable, but please know we stand ready to help you.

The American people expect Congress and the White House to advance real solutions on this important challenge. Reforming our immigration system is not only about recognizing and honoring the contributions of immigrants to our country, both past and present, but about better protecting our nation, our communities, and our families. We look forward to working with you to pass comprehensive immigration reform this year.

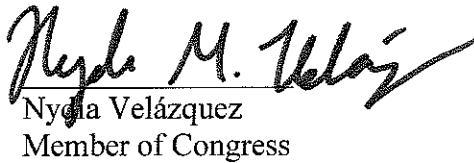
Sincerely,



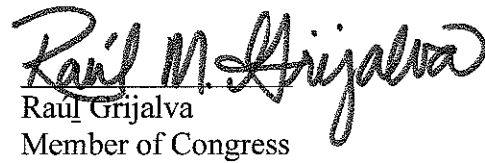
Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress



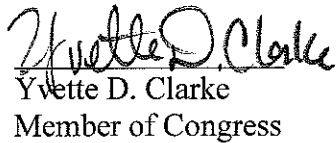
Luis V. Gutierrez  
Member of Congress



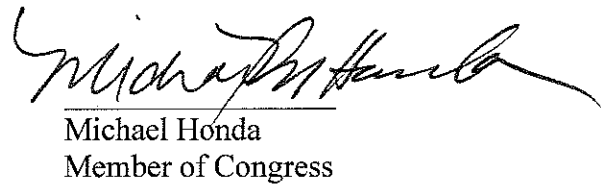
Nydia Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Raúl Grijalva  
Member of Congress



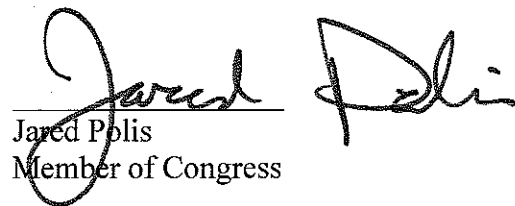
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



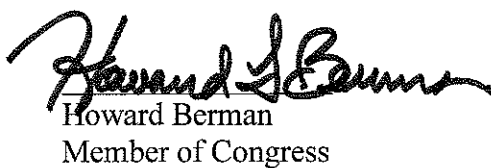
Michael Honda  
Member of Congress



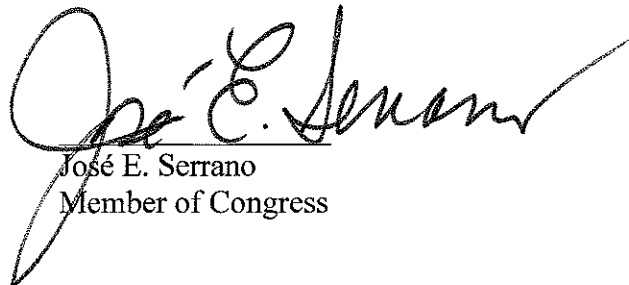
Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress



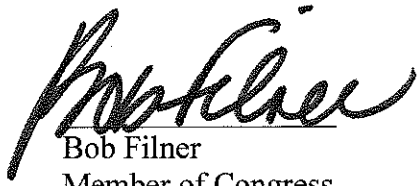
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

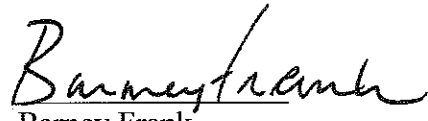


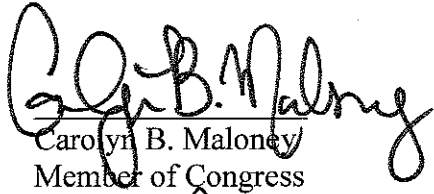
Howard Berman  
Member of Congress

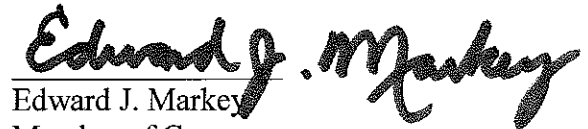


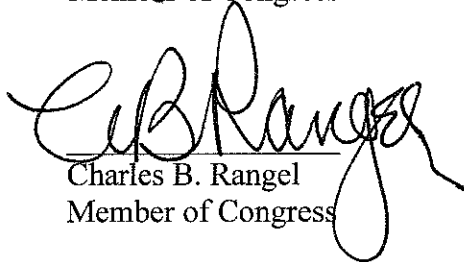
José E. Serrano  
Member of Congress


  
Bob Filner  
Member of Congress


  
Barney Frank  
Member of Congress

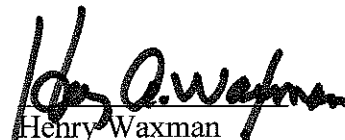
  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress


  
Edward J. Markey  
Member of Congress

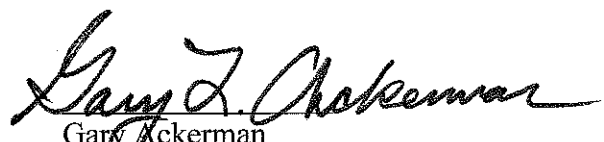
  
Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

  
Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress


  
Ed Towns  
Member of Congress


  
Henry Waxman  
Member of Congress

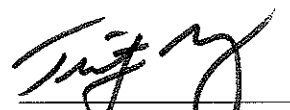
  
Neil Abercrombie  
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Gary Ackerman  
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Rob Andrews  
Member of Congress

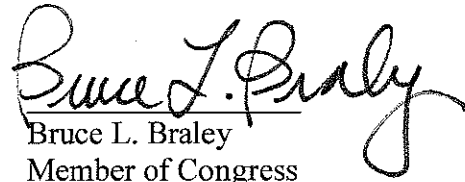
  
Joe Baca  
Member of Congress

  
Tammy Baldwin  
Member of Congress

  
Timothy Bishop  
Member of Congress



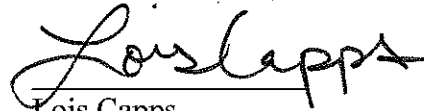
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



Bruce L. Braley  
Member of Congress




Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



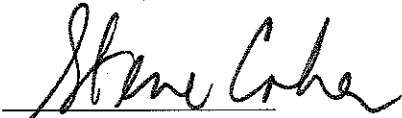
Lois Capps  
Member of Congress



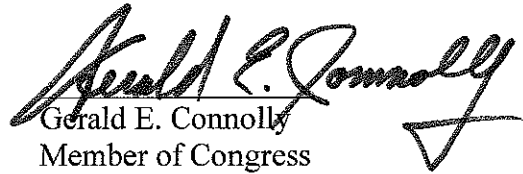
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



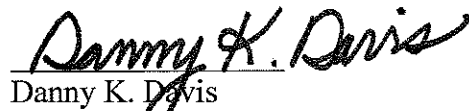
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



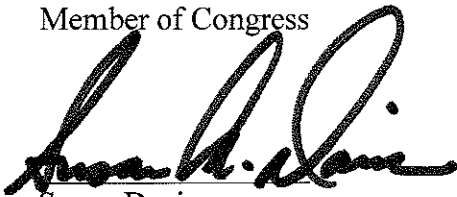
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress




Susan Davis  
Member of Congress



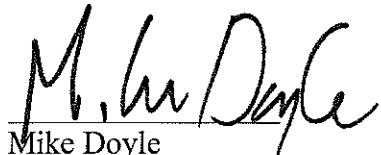
Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



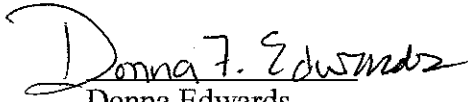
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress




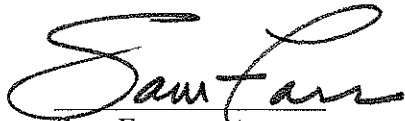
Lloyd Doggett  
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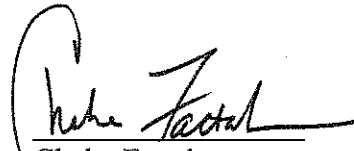
  
Mike Doyle  
Member of Congress

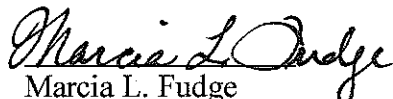
  
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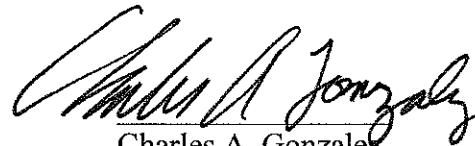
  
Donna Edwards  
Member of Congress

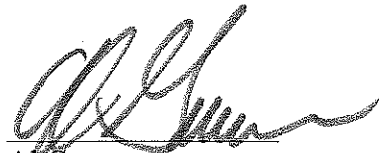
  
Eliot Engel  
Member of Congress


  
Sam Farr  
Member of Congress

  
Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress


  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Charles A. Gonzalez  
Member of Congress


  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Gene Green  
Member of Congress

  
Phil Hare  
Member of Congress

  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

  
Martin Heinrich  
Member of Congress

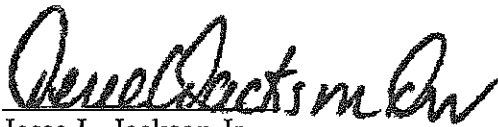
  
Rubén Hinojosa  
Member of Congress



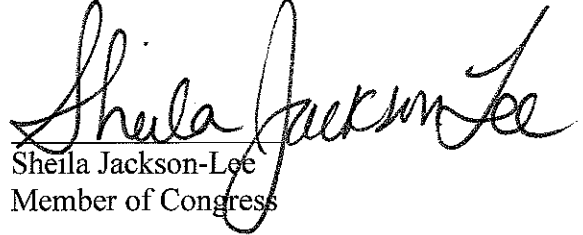
Rush Holt  
Member of Congress



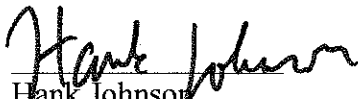
Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



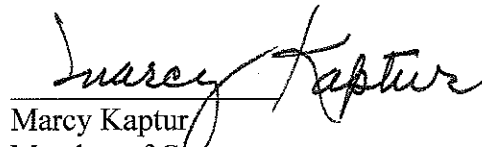
Jesse L. Jackson Jr.  
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson-Lee  
Member of Congress



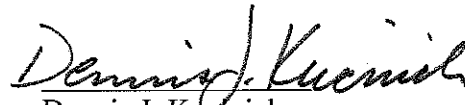
Hank Johnson  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Carolyn C. Kilpatrick  
Member of Congress



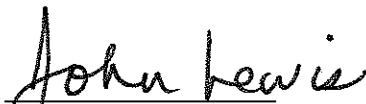
Dennis J. Kucinich  
Member of Congress



James A. Langevin  
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Ben Ray Lujan  
Member of Congress



Eric Massa  
Member of Congress



Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

Carolyn McCarthy  
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Brad Miller  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress

John W. Olver  
Member of Congress

Solomon Ortiz  
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone Jr.  
Member of Congress

Bill Pascrell  
Member of Congress



Ed Pastor  
Member of Congress



Pedro Pierluisi  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



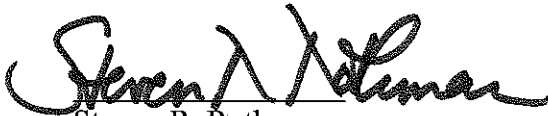
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



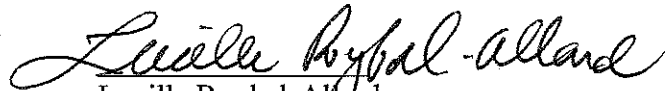
Laura Richardson  
Member of Congress



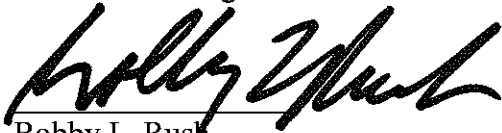
Ciro D. Rodriguez  
Member of Congress



Steven R. Rothman  
Member of Congress



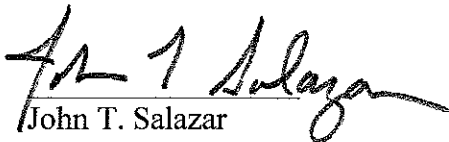
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Member of Congress




Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress



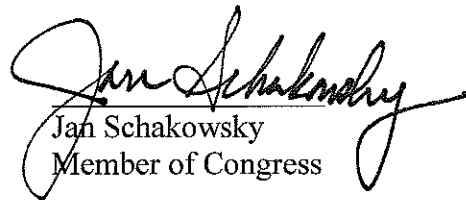
John T. Salazar  
Member of Congress



Linda Sanchez  
Member of Congress




John Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

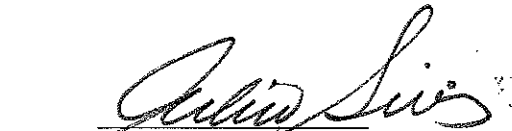


Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

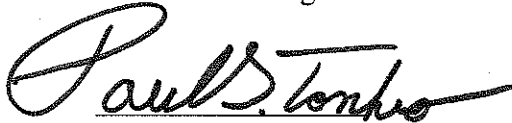





Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



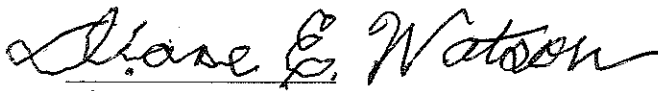
Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



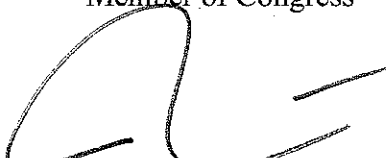
Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress




Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



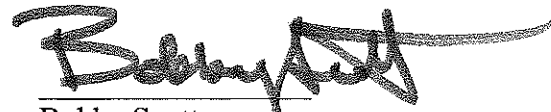
Diane Watson  
Member of Congress



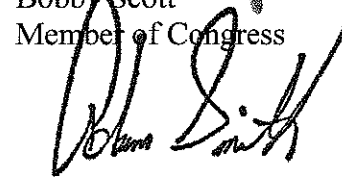
Anthony Weiner  
Member of Congress




David Wu  
Member of Congress



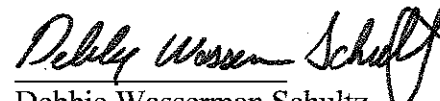
Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress



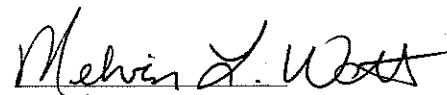
Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



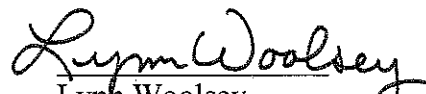
Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress




Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



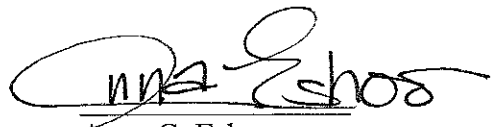
Melvin L. Watt  
Member of Congress



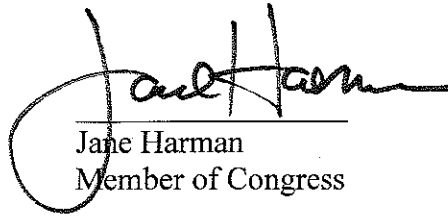
Lynn Woolsey  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Jane Harman  
Member of Congress



Daniel B. Maffei  
Member of Congress