

The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Senator Harry Reid, Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

April 3, 2013

Dear Congressional Leadership:

We the undersigned organizations applaud your bipartisan efforts to reach agreement on fixing the many problems plaguing America's immigration system. We specifically urge that you do not neglect to respect the rights of US citizens and their families in including effective waiver reform in whatever legislation can pass this Congress.

Too many U.S. citizens have husbands, wives or children trapped in the unthinking and counterproductive web of inadmissibilities that separate them from each other or from America. Sanctions on past conduct have a purpose and a place. When the damage they do to families of U.S. citizens and our national interest in their wellbeing is far greater than the damage done by past conduct, we have turned the purpose of immigration law on its head.

We are asking for common sense reform of the existing waiver system, with uniform, objective standards that balance the national interest in family unity and fairness with the gravity of past conduct. Such a framework could be applied to sponsored workers and family members.

We applaud the leadership you have brought to this long debate, and we look forward to working with you to enact an immigration reform bill this year that includes effective waiver reform.

Thank you.

Action for Family Unity  
American Families United  
Arab American Association of New York  
Border Network for Human Rights  
Champaign-Urbana Immigration Forum  
Chhaya Community Development Corporation

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles  
Define American  
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami / Haitian Women of Miami  
Idaho Community Action Network  
Immigrant Defense Project  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration Advocacy Matters  
Latin American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey  
Make the Road New York  
MinKwon Center for Community Action  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild  
Nationalities Services Center  
New York Immigration Coalition  
New York State Interfaith Network for Immigration Reform  
Office of Cultural Ministries for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia  
OneAmerica  
Post-Deportation Human Rights Project  
The Rutherford Institute  
Together Colorado  
Women's Refugee Commission