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