



CITIES *for* **ACTION**



The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 12, 2021

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

As leaders representing Cities for Action, a coalition of nearly 200 mayors and county executives advocating for pro-immigrant federal policies, we commend your leadership in seeking to enact long-overdue reforms to the immigration system. We support the Administration's commitment to creating a humane and modern immigration system that welcomes our immigrant constituents and allows them to more fully contribute to our communities. We write to highlight the importance of the integration and inclusion proposals contained in two critical bills which seek to achieve successful immigration reform—the U.S. Citizenship Act (USCA) and the New Deal for New Americans Act (NDNA).

The New Deal for New Americans Act seeks to fully integrate our immigrant residents into the fabric of our cities and counties. The Act establishes a National Office of New Americans, expands access to immigration legal services, workforce development, and English-language learning, and enacts proactive measures to include refugees. We are, therefore, thrilled that the U.S. Citizenship Act likewise includes several provisions modeled after the NDNA and urge that, as it moves forward, that it also incorporate the establishment of a National Office of New Americans. Many of our jurisdictions have similar offices at the local level, and believe that a national office is necessary to fill a key coordinating and leadership role in advancing a comprehensive national integration strategy.

As local leaders, we have seen firsthand the numerous obstacles that keep our immigrant residents from being fully integrated and thus unable to reach their full potential. While securing immigration status for our 11 million undocumented residents is the priority, we must also assist our over 13 million lawful permanent residents in obtaining citizenship and ensure that our over 23 million naturalized citizens are civically, economically, and socially engaged in our society. Our cities and counties have been leading the way in inclusion policies and programming such as language access, citizenship services, and workforce development. With strong federal leadership and support, we are confident we can expand upon this work to address the growing need to fully integrate our immigrant residents.

As you continue your important work to reform our immigration system, we urge you to advance common-sense integration measures as part of broader reform. Integration provisions contained in the USCA and the broader package of measures put forth in the NDNA, including the establishment of a National Office of New Americans, will help to ensure that immigrants are able to meet their full potential, to everyone's benefit. Local leaders stand ready to engage and partner with you on advancing these legislative proposals, which will help our constituents and, in turn, our cities and counties thrive.

Sincerely,

Mayor Regina Romero, Tucson, AZ
Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA
Mayor Libby Schaaf, Oakland, CA
Mayor Sue Higgins, Oakley, CA
Mayor Tom Butt, Richmond, CA
Mayor Sam Liccardo, San Jose, CA
Mayor Mike Coffman, Aurora, CO
Mayor Michael Hancock, Denver, CO
Mayor Daniella Levine Cava, Miami-Dade County, FL
Mayor Lori E. Lightfoot, Chicago, IL
President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County, IL
Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Somerville, MA
Mayor Jacob Frey, Minneapolis, MN
Mayor Pam Hemminger, Chapel Hill, NC
Mayor Tim Keller, Albuquerque, NM
Mayor Kathy M. Sheehan, Albany, NY
Mayor Bill de Blasio, New York City, NY
Mayor James F. Kenney, Philadelphia, PA
Mayor Steve Adler, Austin, TX
Mayor Ron Nirenberg, San Antonio, TX
Mayor Jenny Wilson, Salt Lake County, UT
Mayor Victoria R. Woodards, Tacoma, WA