

PRESS RELEASE
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For Immediate Release
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The DPOC Commends President Obama On His
Immigration Reform Speech

January 30, 2013, Santa Ana, CA - The Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) commends President Obama on his speech yesterday regarding comprehensive immigration reform.

DPOC Chair, Henry Vandermeir stated, "The president's insistence that any proposal include a clear path to citizenship for the nearly 11 million undocumented immigrants already living in the United States is proof we are moving in the right direction on this important issue. As the President has pointed out, undocumented immigrants are in many ways already U.S. citizens. They contribute to our economy through hard work, pay taxes, support their local communities, love the country they live in and share the same hopes and dreams of any other American. The president understands the shared values of building a brighter future for all of our children."

Vandermeir continued, "The truth is, America was built by immigrants who came to our shores with a dream and a desire to work hard. It's who we are as a nation and why the rest of the world looks to us for inspiration. It's important that our immigration policy embraces that."

While the president's plan includes proposals for cracking down on employers who hire undocumented workers and unclogging the legal immigration system to encourage highly skilled and educated workers already in the country to remain here, it also addresses key humanitarian concerns to better protect vulnerable immigrants. The president's proposal addresses victims of crime and domestic violence as well as those fleeing persecution. Another important part of the president's proposal - which should be incorporated by any plan coming out of Congress - includes keeping families together by allowing individuals to seek a visa on the basis of a permanent relationship with a same-sex partner.

It's time our country tackle comprehensive immigration reform and the DPOC is proud that President Obama is leading the way with an inclusive vision that incorporates the best of America.

The Democratic Party of Orange County (DPOC) is the official organization for Democrats in the fifth-largest county in the nation. We are working every day to turn Orange County blue, one voter at a time. At the start of the 21st Century, the Democratic Party can look back on a proud history - a history not just of a political organization but of a national vision. It is a vision based on the strength and power of millions of economically empowered, socially diverse and politically active Americans.