



# **Immigration Reform Advocacy Toolkit August 2013**

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*\*Some of the resources included in this packet are from the Evangelical Immigration Table*



## Statement in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform<sup>1</sup>

World Relief is actively engaged in advocating for comprehensive immigration reform in Congress. This document explains why we believe advocacy on this issue is important, and encourages other Evangelicals to support comprehensive immigration reform. World Relief has a long history of resettling refugees in the United States and providing immigration legal services, English classes, and other assistance to refugees and other immigrants. We are compelled to speak from our experience by engaging the Evangelical community on the issue of immigration reform.

### **How Can We Expand God's Kingdom by Accepting and Ministering to Immigrants?**

The Bible commands us to welcome the stranger. Modern reality also requires us to embrace the immigrant population, many of whom are our brothers and sisters in Christ, and a growing force in the church. Through immigration, God is bringing citizens of many closed and un-reached countries into contact with American Christians. We therefore welcome the opportunity to share our faith with people who might otherwise have no opportunity to hear the Good News. The immigrant Evangelical church is growing rapidly in the U.S. and around the world. Among Evangelicals in the United States, "the fastest growing are found among the Independent immigrant churches. . . . In 20 years, African, Asian, and Latin American Evangelicals . . . will likely be at the forefront of . . . global movements as well as their manifestations in the USA."<sup>2</sup>

In the Bible, God repeatedly calls us to show love and compassion to "aliens," or immigrants. In Deuteronomy 10:18 – 19,<sup>3</sup> we are told that "[God] defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the alien, giving him food and clothing. And you are to love those who are aliens, for you yourselves were aliens in Egypt." Leviticus 19:33-34 teaches us that, "[w]hen an alien lives with you in your land, do not mistreat him. The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the Lord your God."

Love in the Christian tradition requires specific acts of care and respect. In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus answers the question of "who is my neighbor?" with the parable of the Good Samaritan. (Luke 10:29-37). Part of what makes the Good Samaritan parable so compelling is that the Samaritan, who was a stranger or alien himself, was the one who stopped to help the Jewish man. This and other parables remind us that "we are all aliens sent out to help other aliens find a place of safety in this world."<sup>4</sup> God does not distinguish among arbitrary divisions such as country of origin. Instead, God desires to include all people in His Kingdom, for "[t]here is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:28)

Evangelicals recognize that, "[e]veryone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established." (Romans 13:1) Therefore we support the importance of following and enforcing laws, while simultaneously recognizing that laws were created for the wellbeing of

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<sup>1</sup> World Relief, February 27, 2006. This statement may be reproduced and distributed, with attribution to World Relief. World Relief is the humanitarian arm of the National Association of Evangelicals USA. In the United States and 24 countries around the world, World Relief works with local churches to create sustainable solutions that help the desperately poor. World Relief's programs include refugee and immigrant assistance, disaster relief, AIDS ministries, community health, agricultural development and community banking.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Todd M. Johnson, Center for the Study of Global Christianity at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, "USA Evangelicals/evangelicals in Global Context: Trends and Statistics."

<sup>3</sup> All Scripture references are taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version.

<sup>4</sup> Jonathan Robert Nelson, Remarks for The American Bar Association's, "Fortress America: The State and Future of U.S. Immigration Law and Policy," held at the National Press Club, January 26, 2006.

human beings and society. Ultimately the laws must answer to God's higher law, which requires us to treat all human life with sanctity. All persons bear the image of Christ and thus should be treated with the dignity and respect that we would afford our Savior. Valuing persons includes doing what we can to preserve them, to care for them, and to create fair systems that lead to healthy societies.<sup>5</sup> We must from time to time ask if our human-made laws create a just and better existence for those who are created in God's image.

### **Why Do Immigrants Come Here, and What Do They Do for Society?**

We at World Relief have worked to serve refugees and other immigrants for many years, and have found that they contribute to our society in countless ways. Immigrants often fill jobs that native-born Americans do not fill, such as jobs that require hard labor but less education. There are also many immigrants in medical and technical fields. Immigrants are also helping to fill the gap left by an aging population that is leaving the workforce. Immigrants pay taxes, participate in our communities, churches, schools, and political systems. Immigrants are dedicated to their families, and are hard-working.

We know that some immigrants have violated immigration law by entering this country illegally or overstaying a valid visa, and there are many reasons why they have done so. They may have had to flee quickly to escape persecution, civil strife, or natural disasters in their own countries. Many others came to this country because they needed to support their families, who are from countries where they cannot earn a living wage. Many immigrants have applied legitimately for the right to live in this country with their family members, but must wait for many years for final approval due to backlogs in the system.

### **The Need for Comprehensive Immigration Reform**

Immigration is a defining feature of America's history and will continue to be an important issue for America's future. President Bush, members of both parties in Congress, and the faith community have called for changes to our immigration system to address numerous problems.

World Relief believes that a comprehensive approach to immigration reform is required to address the complex and outmoded immigration system that currently exists. For example, current law has created numerous barriers for legitimate refugees abroad and seekers of asylum in the U.S. to receive the protection they deserve. Additionally, approximately eleven million "undocumented" immigrants currently live in the United States,<sup>6</sup> and more than three million U.S. citizen children live in families headed by an undocumented immigrant.<sup>7</sup> An "undocumented" individual does not have current permission to work or live in the U.S.

Many undocumented children are raised here but are unable to attend college or work legally. Individuals are risking their lives and literally dying to come to the United States. Families face inhumane waits of up to twenty years to reunify with family members. There are an inadequate number of visas for employers to hire the foreign workers necessary for jobs that they cannot find native-born Americans to fill. We have a growing black market characterized by widespread use of false documents, increasingly violent smuggling cartels, and exploitation of undocumented workers in the U.S.

Because many immigrants do not currently have a means by which to receive lawful status in the United States, they go undetected by living in the shadows. If they could apply for current lawful status, they would be much more likely to come forward, and the government could better target the small number of potential criminals and terrorists.

We do not condone any violations of the law, such as living in the United States illegally, but we

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<sup>5</sup> Evangelical Project for Public Engagement. National Association of Evangelicals, For the Health of the Nation: An Evangelical Call to Civic Responsibility, 8, 10 (2004).

<sup>6</sup> <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/44.pdf>, stating that as of March 2005, there were nearly 11 million undocumented individuals in the U.S.

<sup>7</sup> <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/46.pdf>.

recognize that our complex and inadequate immigration system has made it nearly impossible for many of the hard-working people that our country needs, to enter or remain in the country legally and/or reunite with family members.

### **What Are World Relief and Other Agencies Doing?**

World Relief is actively advocating for comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level, cooperating with other faith-based agencies, and working to engage the Evangelical community. We approach comprehensive immigration reform as a non-partisan issue, in which we feel called to engage based upon Scripture and our moral values.

We believe that a comprehensive approach is required that goes beyond border protection alone and addresses the current problems of our immigration system, by looking at root causes of immigration, developing workable solutions, and providing dignified relief to the millions of immigrants who are contributing to our communities, despite their lack of legal status. We also advocate for reforms that better protect those seeking refugee and asylum status.

We advocate that any legislation that is passed include the following specific principles:

- Reforms in our family-based immigration system to significantly reduce waiting times for separated families who currently wait many years to be reunited;
- The creation of more responsive legal avenues for workers and their families who wish to migrate to the U.S. to enter our country and work in a safe, legal, and orderly manner that prevents their exploitation and assures them due process;
- The option for those individuals and families who are already living in the U.S. and working hard, to apply for permanent legal status and citizenship if they choose to do so, by meeting specific application criteria; and
- Border protection policies that are consistent with humanitarian values and with the need to treat all individuals with respect, while allowing the authorities to carry out the critical task of enforcing our laws.

### **What Can You Do? A Call to Action.**

- Ask your church and/or Pastor to sign the attached letter to the President and Congress, in support of comprehensive immigration reform.
- Call or send a letter or e-mail to the President, your Senators and Representative, in support of comprehensive immigration reform. (See [www.whitehouse.gov/contact/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/); [www.senate.gov/](http://www.senate.gov/); [www.house.gov/writerep/](http://www.house.gov/writerep/).)
- Schedule an appointment with your Senator or Representative, or with their staff.
- Talk about immigrants and refugees in your church.
- Volunteer with a local refugee or immigration program, such as a World Relief office.
- Contact World Relief for more information.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> For more information, please contact Jenny Yang, Director for Advocacy and Policy, at World Relief, 7 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202; 443-451-1969; [jgyang@wr.org](mailto:jgyang@wr.org) ; or see [www.worldrelief.org](http://www.worldrelief.org).

## **Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform**

Our national immigration laws have created a moral, economic and political crisis in America. Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other's positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions. This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost.

As evangelical Christian leaders, we call for a bipartisan solution on immigration that:

- **Respects** the God-given dignity of every person
- **Protects** the unity of the immediate family
- **Respects** the rule of law
- **Guarantees** secure national borders
- **Ensures** fairness to taxpayers
- **Establishes** a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents

We urge our nation's leaders to work together with the American people to pass immigration reform that embodies these key principles and that will make our nation proud.

*(Signatories and statement available on  
[www.EvangelicalImmigrationTable.com](http://www.EvangelicalImmigrationTable.com))*

## Message Guidance for August Action 2013

### **Why We Support Reform Now!**

#### **The Urgency for Immigrant Families**

God created people and placed us into families. But many immigrant families within our local churches are struggling right now as families are fractured by deportation as well as by long backlogs to reunification; immigrant families outside of the Church facing these same hardships will see the love of Christ if we stand with them in their times of trouble, advocating for laws that value families. Scripture calls us to mourn with those who mourn (Romans 12:15), and we take solace in the promise that the Lord is near to the brokenhearted (Psalm 34:18).

#### **The Urgency for the American Church**

Scripture makes clear that God will hold us accountable for how we treat the most vulnerable members of our society, and immigrants, along with orphans and widows, are specifically and repeatedly highlighted throughout the Old Testament as vulnerable groups whom God's people are commanded to love and protect (Psalm 146:9, Malachi 3:5, Jeremy 7:6, Deuteronomy 24:21). When we welcome a stranger, there is a sense in which we are welcoming Christ Himself (Matthew 25:35-40)—but if we reject them, we may be rejecting our Lord, and will be held accountable. When we are faithful to God's commands to welcome, we get to act out the gospel message of Christ's welcome to a watching world that needs Him.

#### **The Urgency of our Unity**

1 Corinthians 12:12-26 gives us the image of the Church as a Body, with many diverse but interdependent parts. We need the immigrant members of our Body, and we need the native-born members of our body; we are called to act in unity, crossing divides of ethnicity, geography, and minor theological differences. When one part of the body suffers, every part suffers with it, and when one part rejoices, every part rejoices with it. The unique unity of evangelical churches in the U.S. around this issue of immigration is worth celebrating and worth continually pursuing: it's a fulfillment of Jesus' prayer for the unity of his disciples (John 17:20-21), which he says is how the world will know that the Father has sent

1. **We are here to ask the House of Representatives to support immigration reform in line with our Biblical values.** It's clear that House leaders know they can't wait for a solution, and as evangelicals we want Members of Congress to know we as constituents care about immigration and want them to act.
2. **As people of faith, it is not our role to endorse specific legislation or candidates.** Rather, it is our responsibility as followers of Christ to pray for the courage and wisdom of our elected leaders to reach a consensus on immigration that aligns with our values. We recognize that the House of Representatives must follow its own path. And, we are here to encourage the House to traverse that path.
3. **Inaction is not an option.** These next weeks and months will be a crucial time to move immigration reform forward. We want our Representatives while they are home for the August recess to know that evangelicals want action on immigration and to go back to work in September and commit to debating and passing immigration reform.
4. **Our movement is growing.** In the past month, tens of thousands of evangelicals around the country have become Prayer Partners in the Pray for Reform campaign, and since the spring, we have had dozens of local prayer events and conversations. An evangelical radio ad campaign on immigration has reached every region of the country, with local pastors lending their voice to ads in 16 key states. Hundreds of evangelicals have demonstrated their broad support for reform.

5. **The evangelical community remains a united, powerful force acting to support just and practical immigration reform that includes the opportunity for earned citizenship.** We are engaging our congregations to provide strength and support to our political leaders so they can find the courage to do the right thing on immigration.
6. **This time is different.** In this era of political stagnation and polarization, immigration has become the exceptional issue around which Democrats and Republicans have been able to find common ground and make remarkable bipartisan progress. Our nation's leaders who carry Bibles, wear badges and own businesses are giving strength and support to lawmakers to move forward on commonsense and accountable immigration solutions.
7. **The evangelical community is activating ongoing, grassroots support for a biblical approach to immigration.** Our spring "I Was a Stranger" prayer challenge and this summer's Pray for Reform campaign have reached people in every state. As we pray, we are taking to heart the Bible's call for compassion for the immigrants in our midst. We are asking our lawmakers to open their hearts as well as we lend them strength and support on this issue.
8. **No matter how the House proceeds, we ask that our members of Congress work to ensure that reform include the core elements that make it the right thing to do:** providing immigrants in our midst the opportunity to come out of the shadows and eventually earn citizenship, addressing border security in a fair and efficient way, ensuring the families can stay together or be reunited, and ensuring that future Americans can immigrate through new and orderly pathways that support our economy and encourage legal immigration.

## 5 Common Questions and Answers (Q+A)

### **1. Do you support the House's process of moving pieces of reform and not passing a comprehensive package? Should the House take up the Senate bill?**

Answer: We are glad the Senate was able to come together in a bipartisan way on this issue, and we are happy that House leaders in both parties recognize the urgency of moving forward on immigration reform. The House is taking a different approach than the Senate did, and the bottom line remains the same: Congress needs to deal with all aspects of our broken immigration system. We need broad reform that upholds biblical principles and celebrates American values. .

### **2. Some are saying the House can't pass reform that includes a "path to citizenship." Do you think such a path is important?**

We must respect human dignity and family unity as part of reform. We can honor the rule of law, secure our borders, and chart a just and compassionate way forward for the millions of undocumented immigrants living peacefully and productively in our midst. That means including a tough but fair path toward earning eventual citizenship. . We are not for amnesty or any "special path," but the opportunity for aspiring Americans to earn legal status and eventual citizenship is essential.

### **3. Do you agree that we need border security first?**

Border security is an essential part of immigration reform, but it is only one part. The truth is that our borders are as secure as they have ever been. The best way to enhance security now is to pass broad immigration reform that addresses all parts of our broken system. That means continuing to prioritize security at our borders — at the same time we create a strong employment verification system, a streamlined legal immigration system and an opportunity for aspiring Americans to earn citizenship.

### **4. We see that evangelical leaders support reform. But what about evangelicals in the pews?**

Evangelical leaders' advocacy for immigration reform is actually very much in line with what most evangelicals "in the pews" support. As people consider immigration from a biblical perspective, we are seeing hearts and minds change. Nearly 30,000 people have signed up as prayer partners in our ongoing "Pray for Reform" effort, and this year, churches, ministries, campus groups and individuals in every state have requested more than 120,000 bookmarks that list forty Bible passages related to immigration as part of the "I Was a Stranger" immigration prayer challenge. These indicate a significant shift in thinking among evangelical Christians on this topic. More in more, we're returning to Scripture as our authority on this issue.

In addition, recent polls have found that a majority (56%) of white evangelicals support immigration reforms that would include a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, provided they meet certain requirements. It's also important to note that a significant and growing percentage of evangelical Christians in the U.S. are not "white evangelicals," and Latino and African-American evangelicals tend to support these reforms at even higher rates.

## **5. Why do you support “amnesty”?**

We are not for amnesty, we are for accountability. If you pay a fine, pay taxes, pass a background check, study English and pledge allegiance to our country to stay here, that’s not amnesty. Congress needs to catch up with the American public and support a bipartisan immigration strategy that includes the opportunity for earned citizenship. A majority of evangelicals support voters across the political spectrum who overwhelmingly support far-reaching changes to create an immigration process that works over the long term.

## General Talking Points: Immigration Reform in 2013

- **We stand at a moment in time where Republicans and Democrats alike recognize that our conversation about immigration must change.** We are encouraged to see our political leaders, including House Republicans catch up to the American people, including evangelicals.
- **Evangelicals are serious about Scripture and its command to take care of immigrants living among us.** Immigration reform is urgent, moral, and biblical, and Congress must move forward on fair and practical immigration reform legislation.
- **My vision for reform is outlined in the Evangelical Immigration Table's statement of principles,** signed by more than 150 prominent evangelical leaders. The principles reaffirm our commitment to an immigration system that respects human dignity and upholds the rule of law, keeps families together, strengthens our economy, recognizes our tradition as an inclusive nation of immigrants and establishes a path towards legal status and citizenship.
- As Congress considers immigration reform legislation, **leaders should recognize that a new immigration process must include a path to legal status and earned citizenship for immigrants** who have long been contributing to our communities.
  - Polling that shows that a majority American voters of all political stripes support an immigration reform plan that allows for contributing immigrants to have a path to citizenship – including majorities of Republicans (53 percent according to a [Fox News poll](#)) Also [AP poll](#), [CBS](#)
- **For evangelicals, immigration reform is not an abstract moral principle. It is personal.** It is about friends and fellow Christians—real people and families, with faces and names, who go to our churches and attend our schools.
- **The bipartisan support surrounding immigration reform is unlike nearly any other issue facing Congress** because people of faith want a commonsense immigration system. People of faith, businesses, and law enforcement officials are all coming together to say the same thing, immigration reform is needed for the good of our economy and society.
- **I urge Members of Congress to have a robust, public debate on immigration and act as soon as possible to pass immigration reform.** This is not an issue that can be ignored, but we face the consequences of an immigration system that doesn't work daily in our congregations and communities.
- **A united front of evangelicals stands ready to support immigration legislation** that reflects our Christian values and builds our common good.

# Selected Summary of Senate bill S.744: The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013

*This is a short summary of selected provisions of S.744, the Senate immigration bill passed on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

## Legalization (Title II)

**Registration Requirements:** Immigrants who entered the United States before December 31, 2011 and have been physically present in the U.S. since that time will be eligible to apply for Registered Provisional Immigrant (RPI) status provided they pass a background check, have not been convicted of serious criminal activity, pay any assessed tax liability, pay appropriate fees, and a \$500 fine.

- **Initial registration** will be valid for six years. It provides for work and travel authorization, and includes spouses and children in the United States.
- **Renewal:** After 6 years, RPIs applying for renewal will be subject to a new background check, payment of processing fees, payment of taxes and a \$500 fine payable in installments. RPIs must submit evidence of having been regularly employed while meeting public charge requirements or having income and resources at 100% of the poverty level.
- **Adjustment of Status to Permanent Residency:** At the end of ten years, RPIs may apply for adjustment of status, provided that they can continue to demonstrate they are admissible; pay a \$1000 fine per adult; prove they are learning English; and pay their taxes. In addition, they must show they have complied with the work requirement or demonstrate income and resources at 125% of Federal Poverty Level. Any individuals present in the U.S. for 10 years in lawful status can adjust status including RPIs under the revamped legal immigration system.

## Border Security / Triggers to Adjustment of Status and Citizenship (Title I)

RPIs may not adjust status until the family and employment backlogs are cleared and the border security triggers are met. These triggers will be in stages, as follows:

**Before the registration period for RPI status begins:** the DHS Secretary is required to develop a Comprehensive Border Security Strategy and Southern Border Fencing Strategy within six months. These strategies must be designed to achieve persistent surveillance of the border and a 90% effectiveness rate for apprehensions and returns in high risk border sectors.

**Before a RPI can adjust to permanent residence:** the DHS Secretary must develop and implement a fencing plan (\$1.5 billion); E-verify must be mandatory and operational; and a biographic entry-exit at air and seaports system must be implemented.

- **Naturalization:** RPIs may apply for naturalization after a three year wait, making the total path to citizenship a 13 year process.
- **Timeline:** There is an initial 12 month period for regulations. Then there is a one year initial application period which can be extended for up to one year by the Secretary.
- **DREAM Act and Agricultural Workers:** Individuals who entered the United States before the age of 16 and who have completed high school in the U.S. may register for RPI status through the DREAM Act. There is no age cap for the program. Five years after registration, DREAM RPIs may apply for adjustment of status; their time in RPI status will count towards eligibility for naturalization, allowing them to become citizens immediately after receiving their green card. Undocumented farm workers who can demonstrate a minimum of 100 work days or 863 hours in the two years prior to the date of enactment would be eligible for an Agricultural Card. Workers who work at least 100 days a year for five years or workers who perform at least 150 days a year for three years can adjust status to permanent residency. In addition, agricultural workers show that they have paid all taxes, have not been convicted of any serious crime, and pay a \$400 fine are eligible to adjust to legal permanent resident status.

## Integration (Title II)

- **Office of New Americans:** Creates an Office of New Americans, a New Americans taskforce and additional integration initiatives. This section provides funding for legalization-related programming.

### **Legal Immigration Reforms (Title II)**

- **New Merit-Based System:** Creates a “Track One” merit based visa which will initially allocate 120,000 visas annually based on a points system. Equally weighted points will be awarded for factors such as education, employment, and length of residence in the US, with the possibility of increasing the allotment by 5% (capped at 250,000) in any year where unemployment is under 8.5%. Half of the merit visas will be set aside for high skilled and half for lower skilled workers.
- **A new “Track Two” merit-based system** is created to adjust the status of individuals lawfully present in the U.S. for over ten years with work authorization. The Secretary is permitted to clear the backlog of family and employment based petitions that have been pending for more than 5 years during an eight year period following enactment.
- **Lawful Permanent Residents’ spouses and children become “immediate relatives” and are uncapped:** Current family based categories will be revised to permit the spouses and children of lawful permanent residents to immigrate immediately.
- **Additional changes to the current family system:** The current sibling category will be eliminated 18 months after enactment, but the backlog reduction program will include processing of all sibling petitions submitted before expiration of the program and US citizens can petition for the sibling for up to 18 months after enactment. The third family preference category (adult married children of US citizens) has an age cap of 31 beginning 18 months after enactment.

### **Interior Enforcement (Title III)**

This title mandates E-Verify, provides additional worker protections, reforms the immigration court system and provides additional measures related to interior enforcement.

- **Five year phase-in of mandatory E-Verify:** Establishes a phased-in expansion of current electronic employment verification system (E-verify) to cover all employers within a five year period, beginning with federal contractors and critical infrastructure employers. Requires identity verification through enhanced fraud-proof measures.

### **Refugee and Asylum Issues (Title III)**

**Refugee/Asylum Issues:** Streamlines processing in refugee and asylum cases by eliminating one year asylum filing deadline, eliminating family reunification barriers for asylees and refugees, authorizing streamlined processing of certain high risk refugee groups, authorizing asylum officers to grant asylum for eligible applicants during credible fear interviews, and permits qualified stateless individuals to apply for lawful permanent resident status.

### **Reforms to Non Immigrant Visa Programs (Title IV)**

- **H-1B:** Reforms to the H-1B high skilled visa program include expanding current cap from 65,000 to 110,000 with an option to ultimately increase the cap to 180,000 visas annually based on a High Skilled jobs Demand Index. Increases requirements for web-site advertising for U.S. workers prior to hiring foreign workers. Increases fines on companies that are heavy-users of H-1B visas. After 3 years, companies whose workforce is more than fifty per cent H-1Bs are barred. Allows for work authorization for spouses and children.
- **New Worker Program (W Visa):** Establishes a new nonimmigrant W classification for lesser-skilled foreign workers performing services or labor for a registered employer in a registered position. Spouses and minor children are included and will receive work authorization. Three year visa with three year renewal periods. Initially, 20,000 W visas will be made available, rising to 75,000 visas in year four. The visa program cap can rise to 200,000 depending on a formula based on economic conditions, demand for the program and the recommendations of a newly established Bureau of Immigration and Labor Market Research. Shortage occupation employers can hire workers outside the cap. W visa holders may switch from one registered employer or position to another without penalty and apply for the merits-based lawful permanent residence program or the Employment-Based system.
- **Agriculture:** A new agricultural guest worker visa program would be established to ensure an adequate agricultural workforce. A portable, at-will employment based visa (W-3 visa) and a contract-based visa (W-2 visa) would replace the current H-2A program.

## Current Legislation in the House

A summary of the six immigration bills in the House of Representatives is provided below and more details can be found at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>.

### 1. Agricultural Guestworker Act (AG Act)

H.R. 1773 / Status: Marked up in Committee

- The Agricultural Guestworker Act will establish an H-2C nonimmigrant visa for foreign agricultural workers. It gives laborers in the US unlawfully on April 25, 2013 eligibility to enter the program, but new visa petitions will not be accepted two years after the Act is enacted. Employer work sites will undergo random audits and a monetary incentive will be established to encourage visa expiry compliance. Visa limits will be determined each year, and spouses and children of workers are not included in the visa provisions. Workers will receive limited federal benefits and tax credits.

### 2. E-Verify Modernization Act of 2013

H.R. 478 / Status: Not marked up in Committee

- The E-Verify Modernization Act seeks to amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to make the E-verify program, an employment verification system, permanent and mandatory. The amendment also changes some of the procedures for employers and employees.

### 3. Border Security Results Act of 2013

H.R. 1417 / Status: Marked up in Committee

- The Border Security Results Act of 2013 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report the status of international border operations every 180 days, and to achieve situational awareness of borders within 2 years. The Secretary must also submit a strategy to ensure that 90% of illegal border crossing are apprehended in addition to details about how the plan will be implemented and measured. The Government Accountability Office will be required to review and report on the plan's progress.

### 4. The Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act (SAFE Act)

H.R. 2278 / Status: Marked up in Committee

- The SAFE Act seeks to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase immigration law enforcement within the US. The Act expands the roles of state law enforcement agencies in creating and enforcing immigration laws. The Act adds more detention facilities and eliminates the prohibitions of indefinite detention for immigration purposes. And those who assist refugees or asylum seekers who have fallen out of status will be criminalized.

### 5. Supplying Knowledge-based Immigrants and Lifting Levels of STEM Visas Act (SKILLS Visa Act)

H.R. 2131 / Status: Marked up in Committee

- The SKILLS Visa Act aims to raise the number of high skilled immigrants and workers in the US. For foreigners who graduated from an American university, additional temporary working visas will be available; furthermore, the number of green cards available for foreign graduates of American universities with a STEM degree will increase to 55,000. The cap on H-1B visas (visas for specialty jobs) will be raised to 155,000, and a new visa category will be established for entrepreneurs creating jobs and attracting investment.

### 6. Legal Workforce Act

H.R. 1772 / Status: Marked up in Committee

- The Legal Workforce Act seeks to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include an employment eligibility verification system (EEVS). This Act replaces the paper based I-9 system. The EEVS requires employers to validate social security account numbers and employment authorization documents during the verification period. The participation deadline for employers ranges from six months to two years.

## Contacting Elected Officials

PRESS CENTER RECENT STORIES GIVE A GIFT CONTACT LOG IN



**STAND/FOR THE VULNERABLE™**

ABOUT CAUSES OFFICES OUR WORK GET INVOLVED CHURCH ENGAGEMENT DONATE



STAND/With Me Prayer Advocate Career Opportunities Volunteer

Home > Advocate

World Relief's commitment to advocacy for justice and on behalf of the poor and oppressed is based on biblical truths and on the example of Jesus. Scripture constantly emphasizes the importance of showing compassion (Matthew 25:31-46), seeking justice (Isaiah 58:1-14), defending what is right (Proverbs 31:8), and showing mercy (Micah 6:8).

World Relief seeks to follow the example of Christ, who intervenes on our behalf to God, as our advocate. As Christians we are called to be Christ's ambassadors (2 Corinthians 5:20), representing Christ to the world and speaking on His behalf. For this reason, we also defend those who are oppressed, weak and who do not have a voice of their own, whether in Darfur, Burma or the US, just as Christ defends us.

*(Screenshot of World Relief's advocacy website found on [www.worldrelief.org/advocate](http://www.worldrelief.org/advocate))*

There are multiple ways to contact your elected officials to express your concerns and seek clarification on policy positions held by your representative in Congress. To find their contact information, you can go to <http://www.senate.gov/> or <http://house.gov/>. **Your voice matters**; therefore we have listed a number of ways to communicate with them your concerns about immigration.

1. You can **write a letter** to legislators
2. You can **schedule a visit** with your senator or representative
3. You can attend a **Town hall meeting**
4. You can write an **op-ed** in your local paper

Below you can find various statements that can help you advocate for immigration reform.

- [World Relief Statement on Senate Immigration Bill S.744](#)
- [World Relief Letter to the House of Representatives](#)

For more details about World Relief's advocacy activity, you can visit our website at: [www.worldrelief.org/advocate](http://www.worldrelief.org/advocate).

## Template Letter for Legislators

[Legislator Name and Address – [www.worldrelief.org/advocate](http://www.worldrelief.org/advocate) can help you to determine whom to contact!]

[Date]

Dear [Representative or Senator's Name],

As evangelical pastors and church leaders collectively serving thousands of your constituents within and around [the congressional district or state name], we are writing to ask you to take into account the biblical values of compassion, justice, and hospitality as you consider urgently-needed reforms to our nation's immigration laws

Together with evangelical leaders from throughout the country (listed at [www.EvangelicalImmigrationTable.com](http://www.EvangelicalImmigrationTable.com)), we have affirmed a statement urging you to reform immigration laws in a bipartisan way that:

- **Respects** the God-given dignity of every person
- **Protects** the unity of the immediate family
- **Respects** the rule of law
- **Guarantees** secure national borders
- **Ensures** fairness to taxpayers
- **Establishes** a path toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents

**Our Christian faith compels us to advocate on behalf of the immigrants who are part of our churches and our communities.** The Bible tells us that God has a special concern for the foreigner (Deut. 10:18, Psalm 146:9), and He commands His people to take special concern for them as well, particularly as people with an immigrant history of our own (Lev. 19:33-34, Ex. 23:9). Furthermore, immigrants—including many who are presently undocumented—form integral parts of our church communities, and as we see them suffering under the dysfunction of our current system, we all suffer (1 Cor. 12:26). We also see the ways that the current system, where our laws are regularly ignored by both employers and immigrants, mocks the God-ordained rule of law (Rom 13:1). Most undocumented immigrants want to become right with the law and embrace the responsibilities of citizenship, but present law provides no mechanism for that reconciliation to be possible.

For these reasons, **we urge you to support reforms to our nation's immigration laws that meet these principles.** As you do, know that you have our support and our prayers. We will also be working to further educate and mobilize our congregations around this pressing issue.

**We would also like to request the opportunity for a few of us to meet with you at [church name or "at your district office in" and location name] at your earliest convenience.**

Please contact [Mobilizer/coordinator name] at [local church or organization] at [email and telephone number] to let us know when you may be available to meet.

**Thank you** for your service to our communities and for taking the time to consider our views.

Respectfully,

[Names, titles, church affiliations, and addresses of each pastor/leader who agrees to sign onto letter]

## Before the Visit

- 1. Get a team together:** Before you meet with your senators and representative, get a team together. A team ideally includes faith leaders from different traditions and people whose lives have been directly impacted by the immigration system. Be strategic in finding team members who best represent your community's call for immigration reform, who can commit to building an ongoing relationship with the member, and community leaders who the senator or representative may already know or respect. Aim for 5-10 participants for a visit, though a larger group can be a powerful sign of support for the issue. If you are considering bringing a larger group, check with the member's scheduler to see how many people the office can accommodate, and be sure your meeting is well-planned so that you are focused on your message and everyone knows their specific roles.
- 2. Find out who represents you in Congress & know your audience.** Go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) to find out who your Senators and Representative are. Find out where they stand on immigration, including past votes. Their websites and a "Google" search will show how they vote and what they have said about immigration, as well as biographical sketches, campaign statements, district demographics, occupation, religion, political and social memberships, areas of interest, and positions on other issues, all of which can inform your approach to the meeting. For specific bills, [www.thomas.loc.gov](http://www.thomas.loc.gov) is a good resource.
- 3. Have a plan:** Meetings with decision makers should always be tied to your larger strategy, since meetings are just one of many activities important to winning humane immigration reform. Before you visit your members, *always* meet with the other participants to assign roles, including the facilitator, the personal story, specific issue area points, and the 'ask'. Practice by role playing before the day of your meeting so that everyone feels comfortable with their role and knows what to do. Review your talking points and prepare your materials. In order to show the broad support of faith communities, consider bringing the [Evangelical Immigration Table statement](#). You may also want to include other materials, such as statements from specific faith groups, and news clippings of relevant local events.

*The Facilitator* will kick off the meeting by introducing your group, explaining the purpose for the meeting, and providing space for each person attending to briefly introduce themselves. Make sure each participant introduces which congregation or organization they represent. The facilitator will also jump in if the meeting goes off-track and redirect the conversation.

*The Personal Story* is key to every meeting. Someone should be present who has either been directly impacted by the broken immigration system, or has worked closely with those who have been separated from family members, detained, or deported. Telling this story will show how peoples' lives are impacted and how your community needs immigration reform.

*Specific Issue Points:* There will be specific points your group will want to make about immigration reform, including but not limited to the importance of family unity and a pathway to full citizenship, and what those mean to your community. It will be helpful to have one person take on each of these issues to show they are distinctly important. Present a brief two minute reflection from a faith perspective on why immigrants' rights is an important issue for your congregation. See [World Relief's Statement in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform](#) to choose other points to emphasize.

*The Ask* is the critical part of the visit when you ask "Can we count on your support for immigration reform that prioritizes family unity and provides a pathway to full citizenship?" Listen carefully and ask for clarification if what they say is vague.
- 4. Schedule a meeting.** Call, email, or fax the local offices of your Senators and Representatives to request a meeting with the member to discuss immigration. Make sure to tell them how many other faith leaders and community members would like to attend with you. If the member is unavailable, ask to meet with a staffer who works on immigration issues. Be persistent and don't be discouraged if you need to follow-up in order to get a meeting scheduled.

## During the Visit

**Introductions:** The Facilitator should start the meeting by thanking the member for their time, introducing the group as a whole, and then having each person introduce themselves. Each participant should state the faith community they represent to show the power of the group.

*People of faith throughout \_\_\_\_\_ (town/city/state) are committed to acting out our faith by being good neighbors to immigrant families. We do this by \_\_\_\_\_ (Include a story of the work you or other faith groups in your community have done in support of immigrants – anything from ESL classes, to legal clinics, to advocacy, to other ministries).*

*We count you, Senator/Representative \_\_\_\_\_, as a leader in Congress. We commend you for demonstrating the hospitality of our community by \_\_\_\_\_ (Find some comments or legislation the member has worked on in support of immigrant communities).*

*We'd also like to ask how you plan to be a good neighbor to immigrant workers and families going forward, especially as we work toward immigration reform in 2013.*

**Personal Story:** Share a personal story showing the need for immigration reform.

**Specific Issue Points:** Provide the member the materials you prepared, including the [Evangelical Immigration Table](#) statement, and explain why specific issues, such as family unity and a path to citizenship, are important to your communities.

**Path to Citizenship** – Currently, there are very few ways for someone who is undocumented, including undocumented youth, to become documented. Immigration reform must create a process by which undocumented immigrants can earn lawful permanent residency with a pathway to full citizenship. This would allow our immigrant neighbors who already contribute to our community to fully participate in our society with the same rights that we enjoy.

**Family Unity** – Families are the basic unit of strong communities. Thousands of families have been separated by detention and deportation, and should be reunited. Lengthy visa backlogs force families to choose between being separated for extended periods of time or illegally entering the country. Immigration reform must strengthen the family immigration system.

**Humanitarian Principles:** With record deportations and record spending on interior enforcement and border security, enough is enough. This has led to hundreds of thousands families being separated. It is now time to reform the broken immigration system.

**Make your ask:** We believe that in order to welcome the stranger living and working in our communities, we must recognize the contributions and value they bring. Can we count on your support for immigration reform that prioritizes family unity and creates a pathway to full citizenship? How can we best support you in our mutual goal?

Listen well and take notes. Much of advocacy involves listening, providing opportunities for the member to ask questions, looking for indications of the members' views, and finding opportunities to provide helpful information or correct misinformation. Members and staff will appreciate the chance to be heard instead of only being talked at. Ask questions and engage in conversation. Answer questions honestly. If you don't know the answer, say that you don't know but you will find out. Assign one person in the group to follow up.

**Leave Behind Materials:** Bring with you educational information, policy recommendations, sign on letters, charts, studies, faith resolutions etc., all within a packet of resources to leave behind with member's office.

**Thank you & invitation to a local event:** Thank you for your time and support. We will be hosting an educational event for immigration reform in the upcoming weeks. Can we count on your attendance? In the meantime, please let us know how we can be a support to you as we all come together in \_\_\_\_\_ (town/city/state) be good neighbors and a welcoming community.

Remember to get the contact information and cards for the staffers you meet. Consider also asking the member and staff to take a photo with your group – most politicians love the photo op!

## After the Visit

### **Debrief your meeting**

It's important to make sure you and your group are on the same page immediately after leaving the meeting, while the conversation is fresh in your mind. Make sure to leave the office building, so your debrief conversation can't be overheard. As a group, review: What did we hear? Did we get what we wanted? What are the next steps? Choose one person to send a follow-up email attaching the documents mentioned, providing answers to questions that came up during the meeting, and continuing to engage the member and staff in your group's work. It's also important to evaluate your group's work. How did we do as a team? Share the information learned during your meeting with your state coalition and other allies.

### **Communicate with your Base**

Make sure to take notes and report back how the meeting went to other groups with whom you are working with. The information from your meeting will inform your next steps on strategic action and is important for those who couldn't come to the meeting to feel included in the process.

### **Follow up with your member of Congress**

Send the staff you met an email thanking them for their time, attaching any documents you mentioned, providing answers to questions that came up during the meeting, and once again making your case for humane immigration reform.

### **Call Washington, DC**

The Capitol Switchboard (202) 224-3121 can connect you to the DC offices of your senators and representatives. Introduce yourself as a constituent and ask for the staffer who works on immigration. Tell them about your meeting with their local office, ask what they are doing to champion immigration reform, and urge them to support humane immigration policies. Oftentimes the local and DC offices do not communicate about visits, so it's important to follow up with the DC office as well.

### **Let us know how your visit went**

It's very important for us to continue to gather information about where your members stand on immigration reform. After you meet or speak with someone from your Senators' and Representatives' local and/or DC offices, please contact [advocacy@wr.org](mailto:advocacy@wr.org). Advocates in DC will then follow up with the DC staff to reinforce your visit and to make sure we have an accurate vote count for immigration reform!

## Town Hall Meetings

### Organizing for Congressional Town Halls

#### 1. Why Town Halls

- Members of Congress spend a lot of time in Washington DC and town halls are their time to hear directly from the constituents. It's a time for them to take the true temperature of their district on issues. In short, town halls are one of the most effective forums to make your voice heard.
- This is our last meaningful chance to shape the narrative on immigration reform before House members return to D.C.
- This is our chance to show members of congress the true numbers behind immigration reform. Real people in their districts and not anonymous calls from same people.
- To find information about your local town hall meeting, you can contact your representatives' office at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/>.

#### 2. Work with Town Hall Planners and Partners.

- In places where there are relationships with congressional offices, work with those organizing the event.
- Ask for ground rules to be set out and delivered at the beginning of the town hall, possibly by a member of the Clergy.
- Encourage "Pro" and "Anti" reform microphones so each side can take turns and be respectful of each others' opinions.
- The goal is to get the majority of people in the room to show support for CIR and to have a respectful and meaningful discussion on this issue.

#### 3. Turnout Big Numbers of Supporters—Presence Matter at Town Halls.

- This recess is our last chance to shape the narrative on immigration reform before House members return to D.C.
- Now is the time to turn out as many supporters who will vocally and visibly support immigration reform as possible. Real people for real solution.
- We know the opposition will be out in full force, and we want to show members of congress that faith, law enforcement and business leaders support immigration reform.
- Bring a friend

#### 4. Identify Yourself.

- There will be a "Pro" and "Anti" organizers there handing out various paraphernalia – feel free to use stickers, buttons, bracelets, and other similar identifying paraphernalia.
- The paraphernalia will allow everyone in the room, including the speakers, to identify who you are.

#### 5. Get There Early.

- By getting there early and taking the best seats we can ensure members of congress know you are there to support them. This will help counteract the oppositions presence and help change the congressman's perspective on the issue.

## **6. Inform the Media.**

- Be prepared to speak to reporters.
- Suggest questions for reporters to ask of attendees.
  - Some questions include: “Where are you from?”; “How did you find out about this event?”; “Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship “How important is it to keep families together?”
- Bring press release with you when applicable and only give your releases to members of the media. Get their business cards or contact information so you can follow up.

## **7. Stay on Message.**

- We want House members to remember our message; we are here to help the House of Representatives get to ‘yes’ on immigration.
- We support:
  - providing immigrants in our midst the opportunity to come out of the shadows and eventually earn citizenship,
  - addressing border security in a fair and efficient way, ensuring the families can stay together or be reunited, and
  - ensuring that future Americans can immigrate through new and orderly pathways that support our economy and encourage legal immigration.
- We don’t want any actions that might detract from our message.
- Use stories to convey the emotional elements of immigration. Stories of immigrants in your congregations, neighborhoods you serve, and employees in your business.

## **8. Change the Conversation**

- Immigration is an emotional issue for both sides and often folks bring those emotions to these meetings. Be prepared to hear uncomfortable statements and disruptive statements.
- Help change or break those uncomfortable situations by making a positive statement, asking a question about why we need reform or leading everyone into a prayer.
  - i. Raise your hand high, maintain eye contact with the host, step right up to the microphone, and ensure your voice is heard about why we need reform.
- Don’t be afraid to share your story and explain what immigration reform will do for yourself, your congregation, town or business.

## **9. Seek Out Members of the Press.**

- Members of the press often want reactions from attendees.
- Be prepared with a short anecdote about your personal story, why you support immigration reform and something you learned from the town hall.

## **10. Consider Writing a Letter to the Editor After the Event.**

- After attending the town hall, write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper about what you learned and why our country needs immigration reform now. Say how those who disagree with reform are out of step with the rest of America who want solutions.

## Prayer Gathering Guide

### The Basics: Putting Your Prayer Gathering Together

**What:** Gather with fellow Christians to pray for immigrants and for common sense immigration reform consistent with biblical principles. Prayer guides can be downloaded at <http://pray4reform.org/>.

**Who:** Your church, youth group, Bible study group, or any other group of people who might be interested, whether hundreds of people or just “two or three gathered” in Jesus’ name

**When:** After church on Sunday, weekday morning before work, weekday evening, during a Wednesday night prayer service, at a regularly scheduled group meeting

**Where:** Preferably at your church, or alternatively at your home or in a public space

**Why:** As evangelical Christians, we are called by God to welcome the immigrant as we would welcome Christ (Matthew 25:35). We’re also specifically commanded to pray for our governmental leaders (1 Timothy 2:2), and they particularly need our prayers now, as they debate immigration policy. As Bible teacher Dr. Barbara Williams-Skinner says, “There is a direct relationship between the kind of planet we live in and how often we talk to God about leaders. Their decisions can bring joy or conflict; peace or pain; poverty or prosperity to us. To put it another way, we have the kind of leaders we pray for!”

**We hope you are willing to host a Pray4Reform Prayer Gathering. We’re here to help make your event a success! Email the Evangelical Immigration Table’s Matthew Soerens at [msoerens@wr.org](mailto:msoerens@wr.org) with any questions, concerns or prayer requests you have.**

### Inviting Your Representative

It’s not as scary as it sounds!

**Representatives and their staffs have told us repeatedly: they want to hear from evangelical Christians about our concern for immigrants and passion for reform!** Consider inviting them to your prayer gathering.

Finding out who represents you in Congress and how to contact them is easy, just visit <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

We’re here to help! If you either don’t hear back from your Representative’s office, or would like us to help connect you with him or her, email Kristen Sabella with the National Association of Evangelicals at [ksabella@nae.net](mailto:ksabella@nae.net)

### Inviting the Media

Amplify your voice!

**When journalists (for either Christian or secular news outlets) write about evangelical Christians who are passionate about welcoming immigrants and seeking just policies, it reminds other believers to pray as well and presents a welcoming image of the Church to those watching on the outside.**

We’re here to help connect you with local reporters who might be interested in covering your prayer gathering. Amplifying our collective voice through the media will help spread the message and bring attention to our movement. Email us at [info@evangelicalimmigrationtable.com](mailto:info@evangelicalimmigrationtable.com)

## Reach out to the Media

Utilizing the media to gain support for immigration reform is key during the August recess. Many times, people do not support immigration reform because they lack knowledge about the issue; therefore we need to reach out to educate constituents. Once informed about the Biblical perspective, people are more confident about contacting their representatives to express their concerns. In addition to Facebook and Twitter, the local newspaper is a great means to send a message out. Many evangelical leaders have written op-eds in their local newspapers to bring a biblical side to the immigration debate. If you would like to write an op-ed for your local newspaper, here is a guide and template:

### *Op-Ed Guidance*

- The overarching goal of an op-ed is to draw attention to a timely issue with your own perspective.
- **Before you start writing**, determine the newspaper where you'd like your op-ed to be printed and find their op-ed guidelines.

### **Structuring Your Op-Ed**

- **Opening: Grab the reader's attention.** An anecdote can be powerful, perhaps a story about someone who would be affected by immigration reform (or by inaction on immigration reform). And/or talk about what inspires you, from your unique perspective, to support reform.
- **State your case.**
  - Emphasize the importance of including an opportunity for aspiring Americans to earn citizenship, come out of the shadows and contribute fully to our country. If we don't address the people who are here unlawfully, we still will not have solved the problem.
- **Provide supporting evidence to strengthen your point (choose from/adapt the following).**
  - Lead with (biblical) values: God's concern for the immigrant as reflected in your reading of the Bible. You can refer to the Evangelical Immigration Table's [statement of principles](#).
  - With immigration reform, we can bring honor to the rule of law and care for the stranger among us.
- **Provide a summation:** Restate your case and underscore how each piece of evidence you have provided leads you to your logical conclusion.
  - House must find a way forward on reform that adheres to our values and moves us forward.
- **The closer**
  - Paint a picture of the brighter future that will result from reform.

When you are finished with your op-ed, send it to [Dan Gordon](#), who can help with editing and placement.

## SAMPLE OP-ED

### Praying for Congress to Take Action on Immigration Reform

By \_\_\_\_\_

[Anecdote or story about people you know who are affected by our broken immigration system and/or loving your neighbor]

During my time as [position] at [church/organization], I have witnessed the need for sensible immigration reform. [Explain.]

God's concern for the immigrant is reflected in Scripture. In Matthew 25, Jesus says, "I was a stranger, and you invited me in." Whatever we do unto the "least of these," we do for Him.

[Expand how your reading of the Bible has informed you on this issue, or how scripture can guide us on immigration.]

Here in Texas and around the country, Scripture is opening people's eyes and hearts. Just one example: Nearly 30,000 people have signed up to partner in an evangelical initiative to "Pray for Reform."

We pray because our broken system forces our hardworking neighbors to live in the shadows, and it tears families apart. Criminal enterprises often prey on the undocumented, even as our neighbors work hard and give back to their communities.

In short, our immigration laws are holding us back. That's why we need Congress to create a better immigration process that focuses on human dignity, growth and prosperity.

With immigration reform, we can bring honor to the rule of law and care for the stranger among us. Our country, along with [your city's name], has the potential to welcome and develop unity among people who are here to work hard and pursue the American dream, no matter where you were born.

Reform must emphasize border security, the rule of law and fairness to taxpayers. Alongside those priorities, we must treat the immigrants in our midst with dignity.

That means reform must also promote family unity and create the opportunity for aspiring Americans to earn citizenship.

This is not about amnesty; it is about accountability that will strengthen our country. And it is not about politics; it is about human beings made in God's image who deserve our respect and our love as neighbors.

I support members of Congress who recognize the problem and want to come together to find a solution. (If applicable) I applaud the efforts of [Your Representative's Name] for [saying/doing \_\_\_\_\_] to bring commonsense immigration reform one step closer to reality.

Broad immigration reform will make America stronger through its reflection of biblical values and American values: freedom, hard work and family unity.

The House must find a way forward on reform that adheres to our values and moves us forward. Now is the time.

[One- or two-sentence tagline/bio]