



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

## Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform: A Policy that Serves the Interests of the American People

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Limit overall immigration.** We are a nation of over 320 million people. We need to consider how much we want to grow and how that growth will affect the labor market, our environment, resources, and quality of life in America.

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**No more amnesties.** Amnesty is a categorical pardon that applies to a group of people who fit into a set of defined legal parameters, and it removes the prescribed penalty for the commission of an unlawful act. Granting legal status to 12 million illegal aliens is amnesty. One can create euphemisms in an attempt to convince the American public that, if illegal immigration is not really illegal, then amnesty no longer is amnesty, and enforcing immigration law is unnecessary. But facts are facts and the American people will not be fooled on this.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Secure our borders.** The last time our government measured border security, only 13 percent of our borders were under “operational control.” American soldiers are dying to protect the borders of other countries while the federal government declares our own porous border “more secure than ever.” A secure border does not mean that no one will ever again cross into the United States illegally. Border security means that most potential illegal entrants are deterred or detected and apprehended.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Vigorously prosecute criminal employers.** The most effective way to minimize illegal immigration is to remove the incentives to enter and reside in the U.S. illegally. We must eliminate the jobs magnet by requiring all employers use E-Verify. DHS must also hold employers who hire illegal workers to account. By pumping billions of dollars into the political system, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce *and* the AFL/CIO have essentially blocked any meaningful enforcement against employers who hire illegal aliens.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**End visa overstays.** Approximately 30-40 percent of illegal aliens entered the U.S. legally and overstayed their visas. To end this practice it is necessary to finally implement a biometric entry-exit system at all ports of entry—a system that has been required by law since 1996. The Obama Administration has declared that visa overstayers are not an “enforcement priority,” which is an open invitation for aliens to violate U.S. immigration law with impunity.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Restore cooperation between federal and state/local law enforcement.** The Obama Administration has dismantled programs that enabled state and local law enforcement officials to identify illegal aliens, and ICE now refuses to take custody of illegal aliens unless they have already committed serious crimes. In no other area of federal law does the executive branch not welcome state and local enforcement assistance. When it comes to immigration, the Department of Justice has sued states that tried to enforce federal statutes, and the DOJ has given a free pass to so-called “sanctuary” jurisdictions that violate federal law.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Implement a merit-based immigration system and end family chain migration.** As it now operates, our immigration system is based on nepotism. We admit immigrants who already have family members in the country, not based on whether or not an immigrant can compete and contribute to our economy. In 2013, only 7 percent of green cards issued were skills based. In order to genuinely reform our immigration system, family-based immigration must be limited to spouses and unmarried minor children.

### Now is the Time for TRUE Immigration Reform:

**Support the American worker.** American workers are the best and most productive in the world. They are eager to work. What they need is the opportunity to compete for jobs at fair wages, not unfair competition brought about by mass immigration. In addition, just because we could benefit from some skilled immigration doesn't mean we should rubber stamp visas for every applicant with certain skills. We should develop and encourage our own STEM professionals, not discourage them by flooding the labor market.