

October 17, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We applaud your commitment to applying the Hastert Rule to immigration legislation pending before the House of Representatives. As you know, the Senate immigration bill, S. 744, would undermine the rule of law by granting amnesty to those here in violation of current law, it would devastate millions of un- and under-employed American workers, and it would cost trillions of dollars in additional entitlement and health care spending.

Considering and enacting narrowly focused immigration legislation that targets specific failures of the current system is the correct and responsible approach to addressing this complicated issue. However, this approach will fail if the end result of the deliberative process is a conference or other closed-door negotiations with the Senate immigration bill. Even if the House were to pass a perfect immigration bill, combining it in any way with the Senate bill—through procedural moves or otherwise—would lead to disaster, due to the overwhelming flaws in the Senate bill.

We therefore write to ask you to make a public commitment that the House of Representatives will not conference any House immigration bill with any version of the Senate immigration bill or engage in any informal negotiations to do so. Only once the dangers of such a conference have been set aside should the House proceed with consideration of any immigration-related legislation.

In the absence of such a commitment, we, and the millions of Americans our organizations represent, will have no choice but to oppose all efforts to bring any immigration legislation before the House of Representatives.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Roy Beck, President, NumbersUSA
Phyllis Schlafly, Founder and President, Eagle Forum
Mike Needham, CEO, Heritage Action
Jenny Beth Martin, Co-Founder, Tea Party Patriots
Kevin L. Kearns, President, US Business and Industry Council
Gary Bauer, President, American Values
Frank J. Gaffney, Jr., President and CEO, Center for Security Policy
Dan Stein, President, Federation for American Immigration Reform
Robert Vandervoort, Executive Director, ProEnglish
Robert K. Fischer, President, Fischer Furniture
Leah V. Durant, Executive Director, Progressives for Immigration Reform
Tom Broadwater, President, Americans4Work

Dee Hodges, President, Maryland Taxpayers Association
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Mark West, President, Chattanooga Tea Party, TN
Milton Richards, Co-Organizer, 912ers of Katy, TX
Mart Staggs, Leader, 9-12 We the People of Monroe County, MO
Mike Lepis, Founder, Mercury One Manasquan Gadsden Tea Party Patriots, NJ
Michael Mosca, State Coordinator, Mass Tea Party, MA
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Karen Martin, Coordinator, Spartanburg Tea Party, SC
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Keith Westbrook, Coordinator, Conservative Party of Florida, FL
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Rick Crain, Mesquite Tea Party, NV
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cc: The Honorable Eric Cantor
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Robert Goodlatte