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Congressional Progressive Caucus

<http://cpc.grijalva.house.gov>

83 Strong and Growing: Open to New and Different Ideas

June 15, 2010

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Congressional Progressive Caucus (CPC), we applaud your leadership in working with Senators Harry Reid, Charles Schumer and Robert Menendez on the issue of immigration. We write to request and encourage that this issue be addressed immediately.

The CPC consists of more than 80 members and is the largest caucus within the Democratic Caucus. We reflect the diversity and strength of the American people and seek to give voice to the needs and aspirations of all Americans and to build a more just and humane society.

Immigration reform is central to the CPC's mission and has long been a top priority for our members. Therefore, we urge you to consider the following principles and look forward to working with you to ensure that they are part of any comprehensive reform:

- Allowing immigrants currently in the United States a pathway to seek earned legal status and citizenship;
- Protecting workers;
- Improving temporary worker programs to better meet the needs of employers and workers;
- Promoting family reunification by alleviating backlogs and waiting periods;
- Eliminating discrimination against same-sex partners and their families;
- Expanding alternatives to detention and creating enforceable detention standards;
- Guaranteeing humane enforcement of immigration law that respects the needs of vulnerable populations, including children and seniors;
- Ensuring immigrant access to higher education;
- Instituting due process reforms; and
- Ending racial profiling abuses through strict statistical reporting.

While we are encouraged by the leadership you and the Senate have demonstrated in striving to achieve a principled and workable solution to our broken immigration system, Congress must act quickly. Immigration reform must not become a victim of electoral politics.

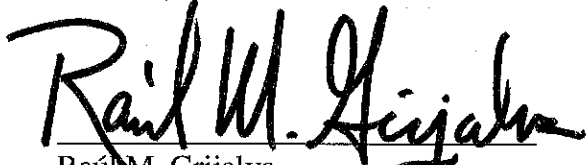
The need to address this issue has become especially apparent in light of recent events in Arizona. SB 1070 is symptomatic of the frustration all Americans feel toward Congress' inaction. If we do not respond immediately, other states will follow in Arizona's footsteps by passing similarly misguided laws. These enforcement-only approaches are unworkable in reality and often have a pernicious effect on vulnerable immigrant communities.


Letter to President Obama
June 15, 2010
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The problems with our broken immigration system cannot simply be enforced away, nor can they be solved at the state level. Immigration is inherently a Federal issue and only Congress can pass comprehensive reform, which is the only way to truly secure our borders. A comprehensive solution would deter illegal immigration, ensure effective and humane enforcement and promote legal immigration that will protect and fortify our nation's economic and national security.

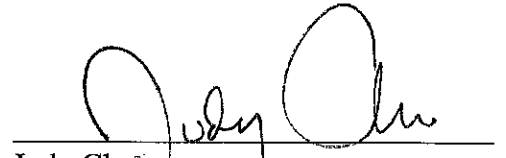
We look forward to working with you on this issue, and we thank you for your commitment to passing comprehensive immigration reform this Congress.


Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus

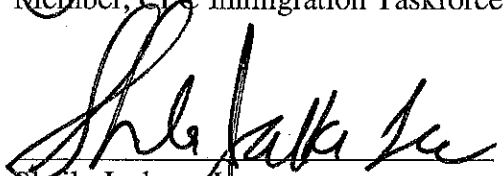

Lynn Woolsey
Co-Chair
Congressional Progressive Caucus

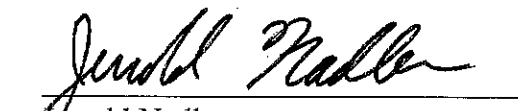

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