

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 30, 2014

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama,

We write in support of you taking appropriate action to continue to ensure our borders are secure and enforce U.S. immigration laws in a way that prioritizes removing undocumented immigrants who pose a public safety or national security risk. In addition, we ask that you use your clear, pre-existing legal authority under existing statutes, where appropriate, to help American businesses retain highly-skilled immigrant graduates and workers to continue to innovate and grow.

We have long supported an overhaul of our immigration laws. As you know, comprehensive immigration reform is supported by nearly every major business group that represents companies of all sizes and sectors. In addition, it has wide support amongst the American people from across the political spectrum. We advocated for comprehensive immigration reform, including helping lead the introduction of H.R. 15, *the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act*. Over the last year since the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform with a strong bipartisan vote, we have worked to build support for reform with our Republican colleagues.

We agree that the best and most lasting way to fix our immigration system is for Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, we are confident that if Speaker Boehner would allow H.R. 15 to come to the floor for a vote, it would pass with strong bipartisan support. But despite the broad bipartisan embrace of comprehensive immigration reform, it is unfortunately clear the Speaker will not move a bill forward this year. Since the Republican leadership of the House failed to act, we strongly urge you to take appropriate administrative actions to address the urgent problems we face with our immigration system.

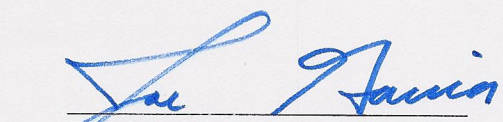
We strongly urge you to use your clear, pre-existing authority to pursue actions that continue to ensure our borders are secure and enforce U.S. immigration laws; specifically prioritizing our resources to remove criminals and those who pose a public safety or national security risk. Policies that split families, disrupt communities, and harm our economy are out of line with our values as a nation. We urge you to provide relief from detention and deportation, where appropriate, to undocumented immigrants who pose no risk to public safety or national security.

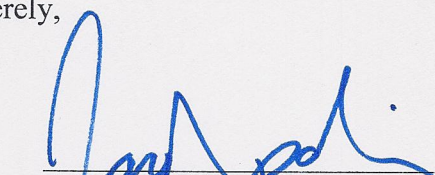
We appreciate the steps the Administration took earlier this year and urge you to use your clear, pre-existing legal authority to further help American businesses retain high-skilled immigrant graduates, workers, and entrepreneurs. American businesses that strive to innovate and grow—and in turn strengthen the U.S. economy—require access to talented employees, particularly those with specialized skills in the areas of science, technology, engineering and math. These high-skilled workers make essential contributions to the growth of our innovation economy, creating jobs and raising wages for Americans.

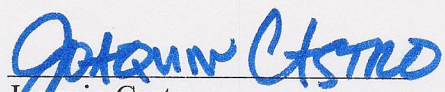
Unfortunately, our immigration system has not kept pace with the workforce needs of our economy. The current system often prevents employers from hiring the workers they need, keeps workers needlessly separated from their families because of backlogs, and sends some of our brightest students back to their home countries to compete against us in the global economy. This is due in part to insufficient H-1B visas for high-skilled workers, which must be distributed by lottery each year, as well as extreme backlogs for green cards that stretch into the decades for certain categories. We should be fostering the ability of high-skilled immigrants and entrepreneurs to contribute to our economy and streamlining the green card process for the benefit of our country's innovative capacity and economic prowess. The exercise of your authority can meaningfully advance the nation's interests in these areas.

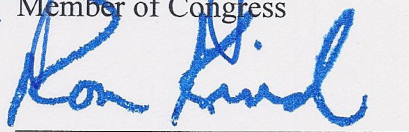
We recognize that despite any actions you take, Congress will ultimately need to act to make all the changes necessary to modernize our immigration system. We remain committed to continuing to push strongly for such action. But in the face of Republican resistance in the House, and for the good of the American people and our economy, we urge you to take appropriate administrative actions within your clear, pre-existing legal authority to address the urgent problems we face with our immigration system.

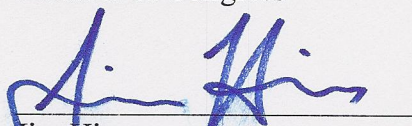
Sincerely,

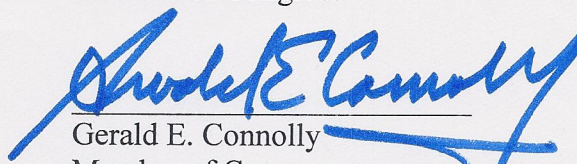
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Garcia  
Member of Congress

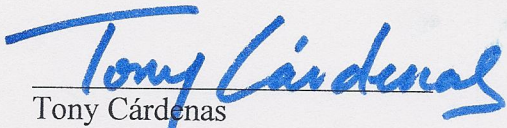
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

  
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Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

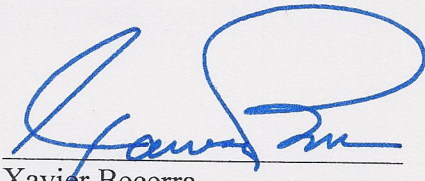
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

  
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Jim Himes  
Member of Congress

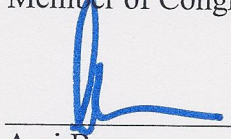
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress



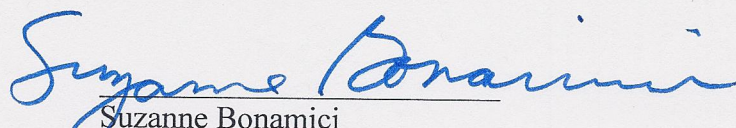
Xavier Becerra  
Member of Congress



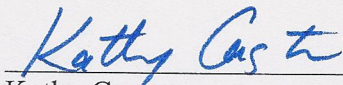
Ami Bera  
Member of Congress



Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress



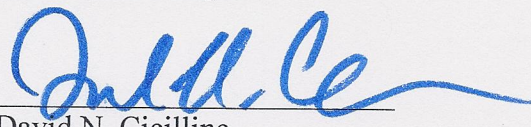
Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



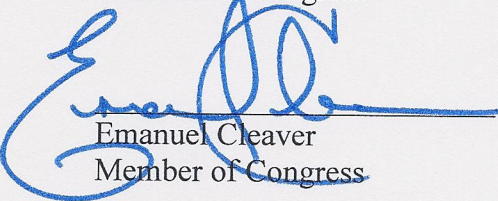
Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress



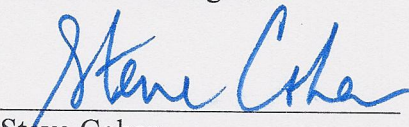
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



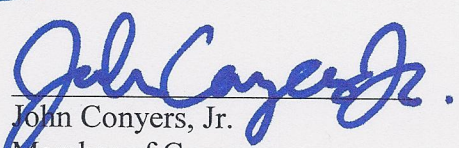
David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



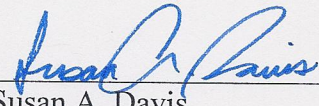
Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



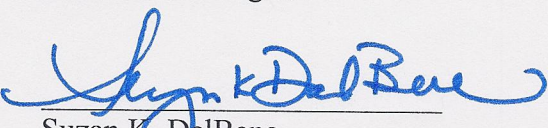
Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



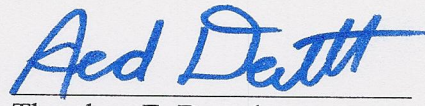
John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



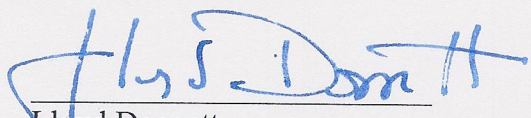
Susan A. Davis  
Member of Congress



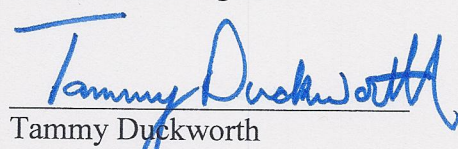
Suzan K. DelBene  
Member of Congress



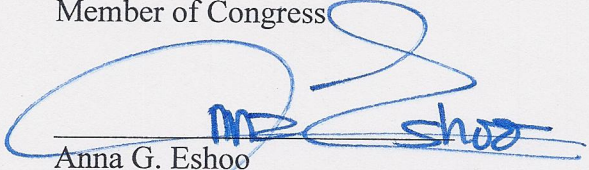
Theodore E. Deutch  
Member of Congress



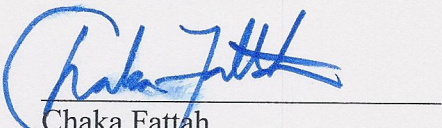
Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Tammy Duckworth  
Member of Congress



Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress



Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
Member of Congress

Gene Green  
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress

Michael M. Honda  
Member of Congress

Steven A. Horsford  
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

Hakeem S. Jeffries  
Member of Congress

Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
Member of Congress

Doris O. Matsui  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

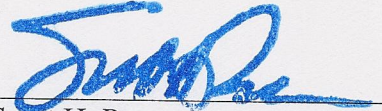
James P. Moran  
Member of Congress

Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress


Gloria Negrete McLeod  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



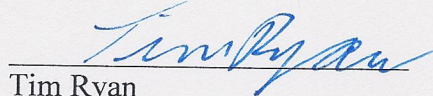
Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



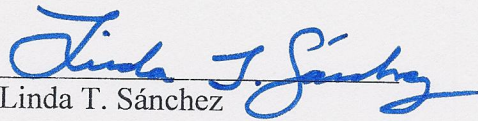
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



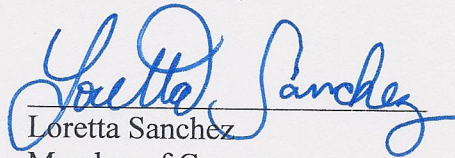
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



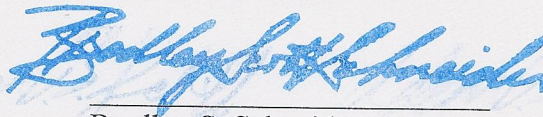
Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



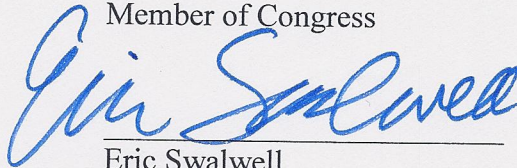
Adam B. Schiff  
Member of Congress



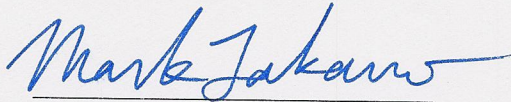
Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress



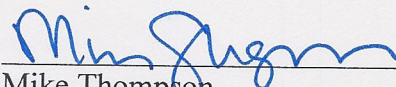
Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress



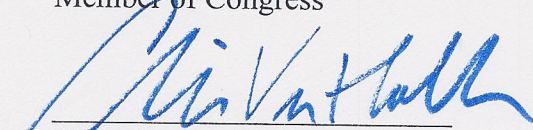
Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



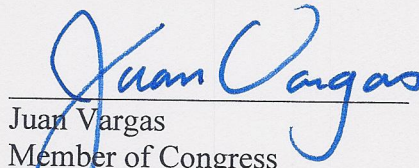
Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



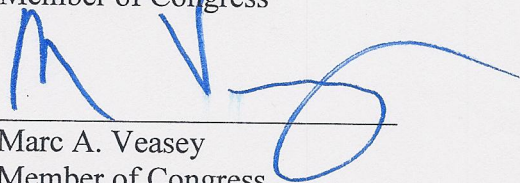
Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



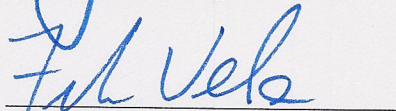
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress



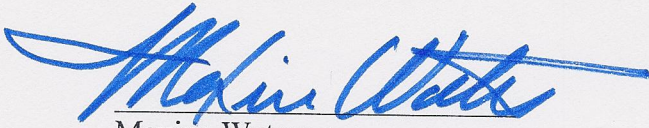
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



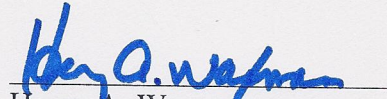
Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



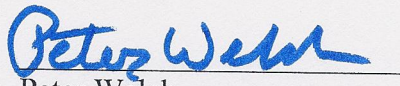
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Henry A. Waxman  
Member of Congress



Peter Welch  
Member of Congress