

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515



New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Ron Kind, Chair
Rep. Gerry Connolly, Vice-Chair
Rep. Jim Himes, Vice-Chair
Rep. Rick Larsen, Vice-Chair
Rep. Allyson Schwartz, Vice-Chair

June 6, 2013

The Honorable Darrell Issa
Chairman
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Issa and Goodlatte,

As Members of the New Democrat Coalition, we believe that America's innovative potential remains the foundation of its future prosperity. We believe in the power of new ideas to create unlimited and transformative opportunities for American workers and businesses. We also believe that smart government policies are vital for supporting American innovation. Government policies can nurture promising infant industries, provide entrepreneurs with skills and capital, allow American companies to be globally competitive and help American workers succeed.

For these reasons, the New Democrat Coalition recently released principles of what we would like to see in a comprehensive immigration reform package that focus on growth, efficiency, fairness and inclusion. Many of the provisions included in the recently introduced H.R. 2131, the SKILLS Visa Act, are consistent with our principles. However, H.R. 2131 does not address all of the critical elements included in S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013 approved through a bipartisan vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Senate's bill contains important new visa programs including a startup visa and other programs focused on attracting entrepreneurs to our country and retaining more individuals with a STEM degree from U.S. educational institutions, so as to retain our brightest students instead of sending them back to their home countries in order to compete against us in the global economy. The Senate bill would also do more to quickly and efficiently reduce the current green card backlog at many innovative U.S. companies by, among other things, recapturing unused employment-based immigrant visas, exempting spouses and children from employment-based visa caps, and eliminating per-country limits, which should be part of any final House bill to come to the floor. The Senate's bill also makes important reforms to the H-1b high-skilled visa program that ties visa availability to economic demand and makes the program more responsive to market forces and unemployment trends. There are also important reforms to EB-5, an investor visa program that creates jobs for American workers that we would like to see in a House bill, such as expedited processing and other reforms that would help to minimize risk and uncertainty to EB-5 investors created by the current application review process being administered by US Citizenship and Immigration Services.

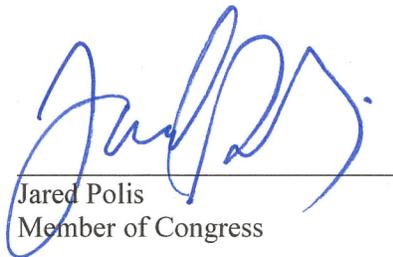
We also know that family-based immigration and the United States' commitment to taking in refugees have both been an important source of our country's economic growth, jumpstarting innovation and growing the number of family-run small businesses. The founders and first employees of Google, Intel, Yahoo!, and eBay are immigrants who came to this country legally through family-based visas or as

refugees and have helped to create jobs for American workers. Family unity has been the cornerstone of American immigration for generations, and America's immigration policy should be designed to strengthen those family bonds.

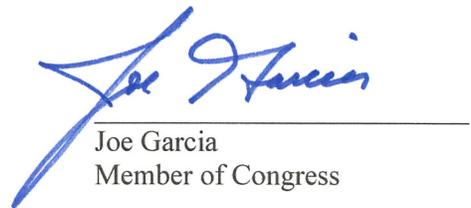
These provisions, coupled with strong and smart border enforcement, would create flexibility to act on changing economic needs to fill legitimate gaps in our workforce and to meet both seasonal and long-term labor needs of the agriculture industry and other industries seeking workers with specific skills. We must also work together to introduce bipartisan legislation in the House to address the future for undocumented immigrants who are part of our communities that includes a naturalization process that is accessible with a focus on immigrant integration as part of a comprehensive plan to enhance American competitiveness.

We stand ready to work with you on a bipartisan basis to pass legislation that will fix our broken immigration system.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress



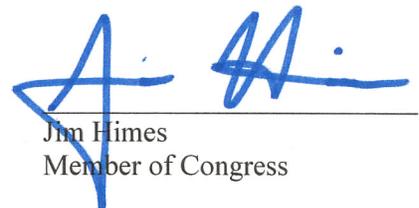
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Gerald Connolly
Member of Congress



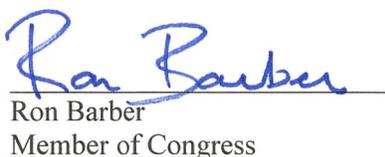
Jim Himes
Member of Congress



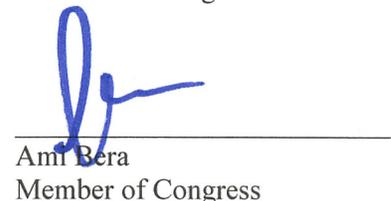
Rick Larsen
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Allyson Schwartz
Member of Congress



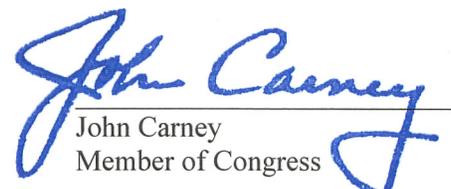
Ron Barber
Member of Congress



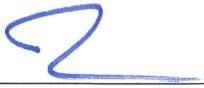
Ami Bera
Member of Congress



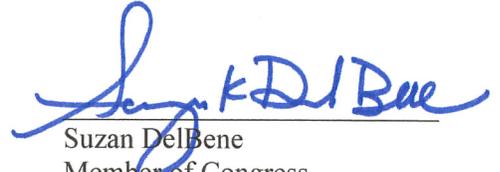
Lois Capps
Member of Congress



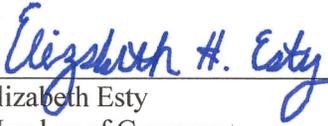
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John Delaney
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Suzan DelBene
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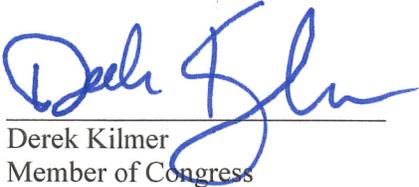
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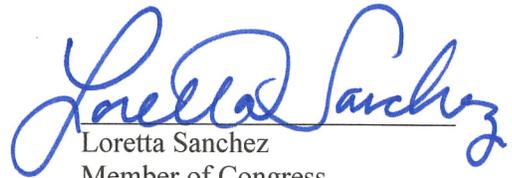
Pedro Pierluisi
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Cedric Richmond
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Loretta Sanchez
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Adam Schiff
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Brad Schneider
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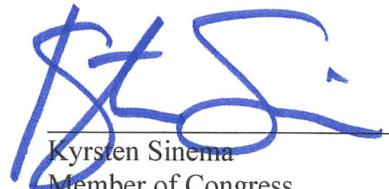
Kurt Schrader
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David Scott
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Terri Sewell
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Kyrsten Sinema
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Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Jim Cooper
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