

I strongly believe that our immigration system is broken and that comprehensive immigration reform that is tough, fair and practical is long overdue.

Also, I believe we have a right to decide who lives in our country and who doesn't, and that we must make sure that our borders are secure. However, I believe undocumented workers must pass background checks, be English speakers and law-abiding taxpayers, to earn the chance to become American citizens. Additionally, I support legislation promoting family reunification; asylum and refugee admissions; educational opportunities from Pre-K through college (like Head Start and the DREAM Act); and employment-based immigration (like Ag-JOBS). I also support programs like the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Programs and the Merida Project that help immigrants and their families improve their lives.

With a range of opinions in the Democratic Party and the unlikelihood of support from Congressional Republicans for a comprehensive immigration bill, I recognize that the first legislative action on immigration reform must start in the Senate. President Obama has met twice with the Hispanic Caucus to discuss a range of immigration issues but no path forward has emerged.

Bills I Cosponsored in the 112th Congress:

- [H.R. 218](#) - People Resolved to Obtain an Understanding of Democracy (PROUD) Act - provides for the naturalization of certain graduates of U.S. high schools who are under 25 years of age on the date of application for naturalization.
- [H.R. 410](#) - SCAAP Reimbursement Protection Act of 2011 - amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow states to be compensated for incarcerating undocumented aliens charged with or convicted of crimes.
- [H.R. 1537](#) - Uniting American Families Act of 2011 - amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to include a "permanent partner" within the scope of such Act.
- [H.R. 1796](#) - Reuniting Families Act - amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow for more individuals to be eligible for family-sponsored visas.