

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.

Bills I Cosponsored in the 111th Congress:

(and will support if they are reintroduced in 112th Congress)

- [H.R. 1215](#) - Immigration Oversight and Fairness Act - requires special training of all Department of Homeland Security personnel who come into contact with unaccompanied alien children.
- [H.R. 1751](#) - American Dream Act - adjusts to conditional permanent resident status, a non-citizen who entered the United States before his/her 16th birthday and has earned a high

school diploma or been admitted to college.

- [H.R. 2076](#) - Border Security and Responsibility Act 2009 - requires Departments of Homeland Security, Interior, Agriculture, Defense and Commerce to come up with a border plan that considers environmental impact assessments, to look at other ways to protect the border, and to work with local people to find solutions.

- [H.R. 2414](#) - The AgJOBS Act of 2009 - requires the Agriculture Secretary to give “blue card status” to any person who has worked 863 hours in the last two years or earned \$7,500 during the 24-month period ending 2006; who is otherwise admissible to the U.S.; and who has not been convicted of any felony or misdemeanor.

- [H.R. 4321](#) - Comprehensive Immigration Reform for America's Security and Prosperity Act – establishes a sensible path to legalization for undocumented immigrants; ends the shortage of visas that continues to divide families; and directs federal authorities to adopt a humane approach to immigration enforcement, and includes language from other reform bills.

Actions/Accomplishments in the 111th and 112th Congress:

- [Signed a letter](#) to House and Senate leadership opposing barriers for legal immigrants to access public health care programs.

- Requested appropriations of \$1.86 million for the Silver Star Gang Prevention and Intervention Program and \$1.2 million for the Monterey County Gang Task Force. Since 2005, I have secured \$4.4 million for Silver Star and \$3.9 million for the Gang Task Force.

- Secured funding for the Natividad Medical Center’s Diabetes Self-Management Program that provides care for Latino d iabetes care.

- [Signed a letter](#) to provide funding for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). SCAAP would allow California to receive federal money for incarcerating undocumented aliens who are charged with, or convicted of, a felony or two or more misdemeanors.

- Met with Mexican government officials regarding the Bracero programs stipends.

- Successfully spearheaded efforts to enact meaningful reform of the E-Verify program in the FY 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill.