



# THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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April 7, 2017

## **An Open Letter to the Congress on Immigration from America's Mayors**

Dear Members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate:

Through The U.S. Conference of Mayors, America's mayors stand united, in the belief that we need to fix our broken immigration system and immediately begin working on the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform. As Mayors, we have a ground level understanding of the pressing economic and moral imperatives that necessitate working in a bipartisan manner to begin fixing our immigration laws.

It is important to note that all Mayors have taken oaths to uphold the law and defend the Constitution. Further, Mayors of cities big and small across the nation, in conjunction with local law enforcement, are committed to ensuring that all criminals, regardless of their immigration status, are properly adjudicated by the criminal justice system. While we work diligently on building and preserving the trust of all the communities we serve, our local law enforcement has a long history of working in cooperation with federal authorities in order to make our communities safe.

In the absence of federal immigration reform, mayors and their cities continue to seek strategies to protect the safety of all of their residents while ensuring that local law enforcement is focused on community policing. In partnership with our police chiefs, we have strong reservations about any efforts, either through executive action or legislation to deny federal funds to cities that aim to build trusting and supportive relations with immigrant communities. We believe that the dignity, health, rights, and privacy of all our residents must be respected, and our cities must ensure that members of our immigrant communities are afforded an opportunity to thrive.

The United States Conference of Mayors has called for bipartisan immigration reform for many years. Once again, we urge Congress to pass immigration reform right away that would:

- Strengthen our borders while assuring that state and local law enforcement is able to remain focused on community policing;
- Establish a streamlined visa process to efficiently process seasonal, agricultural, lesser-skilled and high skilled workers;
- Provide a uniform system of employment verification; and
- Implement a framework that enables people of goodwill currently living in the shadows to come out and fully pursue the American dream.

Further, we support bipartisan efforts, such as the BRIDGE Act, that grant temporary protected status to shield from deportation, undocumented immigrants who came here as children, many of whom have known no home other than America. It is critical that Congress protect the temporary status of Dreamers as well as the families of those serving in our armed forces.

The nation's Mayors stand together and committed to working with Congress and the new Administration in a bipartisan manner to fix our immigration system to ensure that our communities are safe while allowing all of our residents to thrive.

Sincerely,

Mayor William A. Bell, Sr., Birmingham, AL  
Mayor Sue Higgins, Oakley, AL  
Mayor Lioneld Jordan, Fayetteville, AR  
Mayor John Giles, Mesa, AZ  
Mayor Greg Stanton, Phoenix, AZ  
Mayor Mark Mitchell, Tempe, AZ  
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild, Tucson, AZ  
Mayor Tom Tait, Anaheim, CA  
Mayor Elizabeth Gibbons, Campbell, CA  
Mayor Mary Casillas Salas, Chula Vista, CA  
Mayor Sam Pedroza, Claremont, CA  
Mayor Jim, Clarke, Culver City, CA  
Mayor Acquanetta Warren, Fontana, CA  
Mayor Robert Garcia, Long Beach, CA  
Mayor Eric Garcetti, Los Angeles, CA  
Mayor Alan Nagy, Newark, CA  
Mayor Sue Higgins, Oakley, CA  
Mayor Terry Tornek, Pasadena, CA  
Mayor Thomas Butt, Richmond, CA  
Mayor Joe Gunter, Salinas, CA  
Mayor Jim Ruane, San Bruno, CA  
Mayor Edwin Lee, San Francisco, CA  
Mayor Pauline Cutter, San Leandro, CA  
Mayor Helene Schneider, Santa Barbara, CA  
Mayor Ted Winterer Santa Monica, CA  
Mayor Christopher Cabaldon, West Sacramento, CA  
Mayor Steve Hogan, Aurora, CO  
Mayor Dick McLean, Brighton, CO  
Mayor Michael B. Hancock, Denver, CO  
Mayor Joe Kilsheimer, Apopka, FL  
Mayor Derrick Henry, Daytona Beach, FL  
Mayor Joy Cooper, Hallandale Beach, FL  
Mayor William Capote, Palm Bay, FL  
Mayor Frank Ortis, Pembroke Pines, FL  
Mayor Andrew Gillum, Tallahassee, FL  
Mayor Bob Buckhorn, Tampa, FL  
Mayor Mario Avery, Fairburn, GA  
Mayor Bernard Carvalho, Kaua'i County, HI  
Mayor Roy Buol, Dubuque, IA  
Mayor Riley H Rogers, Dolton, IL  
Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl, Evanston, IL

Mayor Nancy Rotering, Highland Park, IL  
Mayor Chris Koos, Normal, IL  
Mayor David Seaman, Tinley Park, IL  
Mayor Laurel Prussing, Urbana, IL  
Mayor Thomas Broderick, Jr., Anderson, IN  
Mayor James Brainard, Carmel, IN  
Mayor Thomas Henry, Fort Wayne, IN  
Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary, IN  
Mayor Greg Fischer, Louisville, KY  
Mayor Mitch Landrieu, New Orleans, LA  
Mayor Martin Walsh, Boston, MA  
Mayor Alex Morse, Holyoke, MA  
Mayor Joseph Baldacci, Bangor, ME  
Mayor Kathleen Newsham, Bay City, MI  
Mayor Stephen Gawron, Muskegon, MI  
Mayor Bryan Barnett, Rochester Hills, MI  
Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz, Burnsville, MN  
Mayor Sly James, Kansas City, MO  
Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis, MO  
Mayor William Bell, Durham, NC  
Mayor Karen Alexander, Salisbury, NC  
Mayor Chris Beutler, Lincoln, NE  
Mayor Javier Gonzales, Santa Fe, NM  
Mayor Javier Perea, Sunland Park, NM  
Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Albany, NY  
Mayor Noam Bramson, New Rochelle, NY  
Mayor Paul Dyster, Niagara Falls, NY  
Mayor Lovely Warren, Rochester, NY  
Mayor Gary McCarthy, Schenectady, NY  
Mayor Stephanie Miner, Syracuse, NY  
Mayor Daniel Horrigan, Akron, OH  
Mayor Andrew Ginther, Columbus, OH  
Mayor Nan Whaley, Dayton, OH  
Mayor David Berger, Lima, OH  
Mayor Paula Hicks-Hudson, Toledo, OH  
Mayor Susan Farley, Woodlawn, OH  
Mayor John McNally, Youngstown, OH  
Mayor Biff Traber, Corvallis, OR  
Mayor Shane Bemis, Gresham, OR  
Mayor Daniel Holladay, Oregon City, OR  
Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Allentown, PA  
Mayor William, Peduto, Pittsburgh, PA

Mayor Isidro Negron-Irizarry, San German, PR  
Mayor Jorge Elorza, Providence, RI  
Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin, Columbia, SC  
Mayor Madeline Rogero, Knoxville, TN  
Mayor Megan Barry, Nashville, TN  
Mayor Steve Adler, Austin, TX  
Mayor Mike Rawlings, Dallas, TX  
Mayor Sylvester Turner, Houston, TX  
Mayor Mark Shepherd, Clearfield, UT  
Mayor Jackie Biskupski, Salt Lake City, UT  
Mayor Patrick Dunlavy, Tooele, UT  
Mayor Allison Silberberg, Alexandria, VA  
Mayor John Marchione, Redmond, WA  
Mayor Ed Murray, Seattle, WA  
Mayor Christopher Roberts, Shoreline, WA  
Mayor Marilyn Strickland, Tacoma, WA  
Mayor Timothy Leavitt, Vancouver, WA  
Mayor Paul Soglin, Madison, WI