

**State Attorneys General**

**A Communication from the Chief Legal Officers  
of the Following States and Territories:**

**Arkansas \* Colorado \* Guam \* Hawaii \* Idaho \* Indiana  
Iowa \* Maine \* Maryland \* Mississippi \* Missouri \* Montana  
New Mexico \* New York \* Rhode Island \* South Dakota  
Vermont \* Virgin Islands**

December 5, 2014

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi,

As elected Attorneys General of our respective states, we recognize the need for bipartisan immigration legislation to fix our dysfunctional legal immigration system.

President Obama's recent executive actions on immigration are necessarily temporary and cannot be as comprehensive as immigration reform passed by Congress. Some question the authority of the President in this area. Regardless, the moment is now upon Congress to seize the opportunity and advance commonsense legislative reforms to our immigration system to secure our borders, support businesses and workers, and promote the safety of our communities.

As Attorneys General, our first priority is ensuring the safety and security of the nation and our communities. Recognizing that immigration policy is primarily a federal responsibility, we urge Congress to pass immigration reform legislation to ensure the protection of our communities and the integrity of our national borders.

We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, safeguards witnesses and victims, and considers national security implications for porous borders.

We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and the unintended consequences to businesses, workers and consumers.

A broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably and affordably determine who's permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.

Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses in the various states, with state input, while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective in meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, tax payers, and consumers.

Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environment for all the children across our country.

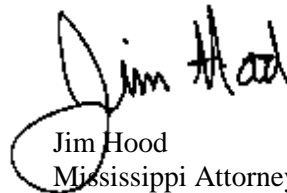
Our immigration policies must provide a sensible means to deal with the immigrants who are currently in the country without legal status but are of good character, pay taxes and are committed to continuing to contribute to our society.

In passing immigration reform legislation, Congress can permanently fix a broken system, strengthening border security, aiding businesses and workers, and supporting public safety.

Sincerely,



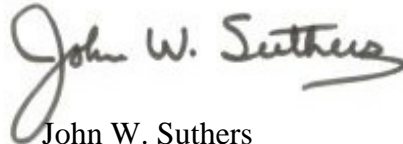
Greg Zoeller  
Indiana Attorney General



Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General



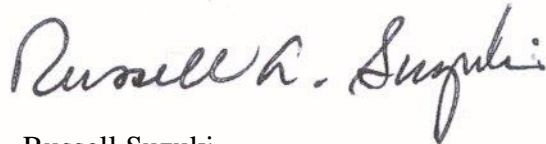
Dustin McDaniel  
Arkansas Attorney General



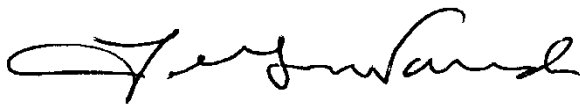
John W. Suthers  
Colorado Attorney General



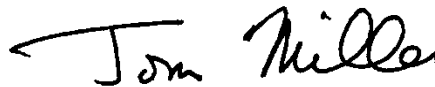
Lenny Rapadas  
Guam Attorney General



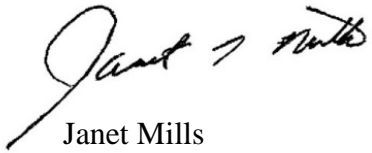
Russell Suzuki  
Interim Hawaii Attorney General



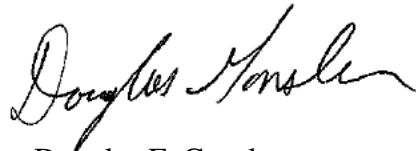
Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General



Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General



Janet Mills  
Maine Attorney General



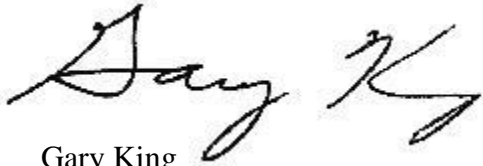
Douglas F. Gansler  
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Chris Koster  
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Tim Fox  
Montana Attorney General



Gary King  
New Mexico Attorney General



Eric T. Schneiderman  
New York Attorney General



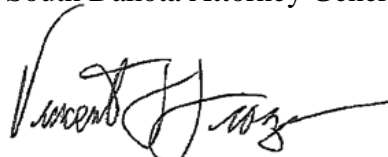
Peter F. Kilmartin  
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Marty J. Jackley  
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William H. Sorrell  
Vermont Attorney General



Vincent Frazer  
Virgin Islands Attorney General