

Senators Issue Promising, but Vague Immigration Reform Plans

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Washington D.C. - Today, in the [Washington Post](#) [1], Senators Charles Schumer (D-NY) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC) laid out their blueprint for immigration reform legislation, noting that the American people want Congress to reform the badly broken immigration system. Their framework, welcomed by the President in a [statement](#) [2] also released today, rests on four pillars: ending illegal employment through biometric Social Security cards, enhancing border and interior enforcement, managing the flow of future immigration to correspond to economic realities, and creating a tough but fair path toward legalization for the 11 million people currently in the U.S. without authorization. While there will undoubtedly be intense debate over the specifics of each component, the framework marks an important bipartisan step forward on an issue that has been mired in political controversy and held up by both parties for too long.

"Today's statements mark renewed commitment to providing immigration reform that will bolster the economy and provide for America's future," said Mary Giovagnoli, Director of the Immigration Policy Center. "We encourage the President and Senators Schumer and Graham to go beyond words and produce legislation that will finally fix our broken immigration system once and for all."

Of critical importance is the recognition that immigration reform can't be accomplished if we focus on just one aspect of the problem. While many think that immigration reform is only about the millions of unauthorized immigrants currently living in the United States, the scope and necessity of reform is much greater, and will have a significant positive impact on U.S. citizens and businesses. For example, there are insufficient numbers of visas for either high-skilled or less-skilled workers to meet the changing needs of the U.S. economy and labor market, which hurts U.S. business and fuels unauthorized immigration when economic times are good. Outdated and arbitrary visa caps have created long backlogs of family members who wait up to 20 years to be reunited with family living in the United States. Wage and workplace violations by unscrupulous employers who exploit immigrant workers are undercutting honest businesses and harming all U.S. workers. Inadequate government infrastructure is delaying the integration of immigrants who want to become U.S. citizens and fully participate in our civic life.

The Immigration Policy Center has developed a series of papers which clearly lay out the problems with our broken immigration system, and the solutions which must be included in comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

To read the papers in the series see:

- [Breaking Down the Problems: What's Wrong With our Current Immigration System](#) [3]
- [Family Immigration: Repairing our Broken Immigration System](#) [4]
- [Enforcing Immigration Laws: Repairing our Broken Immigration System](#) [5]
- [Naturalization and Integration: Repairing our Broken Immigration System](#) [6]

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- [Earned Legalization: Repairing our Broken Immigration System](#) [7]
- [Employment Verification: Repairing our Broken Immigration System](#) [8]

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