

Draft of America's Compact

3/31/2011

Preamble:

America is a nation of immigrants built on the energy, hope and cultural diversity of all those who seek to achieve the American dream. We, the undersigned, call on the Congress of the United States to enact commonsense immigration policies that recognize the human dignity and economic contributions of all, as embodied in the principles of America's Compact:

Principles:

- **Federal Solutions:** Immigration and naturalization are the provinces of the federal government. We urge Congress to craft a national immigration strategy that strengthens federal laws, protects our national borders, and adopts reasonable policies addressing immigrants in America.
- **Law Enforcement:** We respect the rule of law and support law enforcement's professional judgment and discretion. State and local law enforcement resources should protect communities by focusing on criminal activities that threaten public safety.
- **Families:** Strong families are the foundation of successful communities. We oppose policies that unnecessarily separate families. We champion policies that support families and improve the health, education and well-being of all America's children.
- **Economy:** America is best served by a philosophy that maximizes individual freedom and opportunity. We acknowledge the economic role immigrants play as workers and taxpayers, and urge the federal government to enact policies that hold both employees and employers accountable. America's immigration policies must reaffirm our global reputation as a business-friendly, competitive, and innovative nation.
- **A Free Society:** Immigrants are integrated into communities across America as full citizens. We must adopt a humane approach to this reality, reflecting our unique culture, history and spirit of inclusion. Those who contribute to our society should be able to do so legally, and America should always be a place that welcomes people of good will.