



City of Seattle
Michael McGinn, Mayor

March 17, 2010

The Honorable Patty Murray
U.S. Senate
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Seattle has always been a city of immigrants. Immigration has been a driving force of economic growth throughout our history, and immigrants still play a key role in our economy today. With nearly 30 percent of all Seattle children in immigrant families and more than 100,000 foreign-born residents, Seattle's history and growth have become even more strongly tied to immigration.

The impact of a failed immigration system is felt across Seattle, by immigrant families, service providers, businesses, city agencies and other entities. Over the years, the City of Seattle has adopted policies that promote the inclusion of immigrants, resolutions that call for comprehensive immigration reform, and ordinances ensuring that city employees and police do not ask about immigration status. But local action is not enough to fully address the many issues facing our immigrant communities.

That is why I write to you today to ask Congress to finally pass comprehensive immigration reform as soon as possible. Seattle needs immigration reform that:

- Provides a path toward earned legalization and citizenship
- Reforms visa programs to eliminate backlogs, keep families together, protect workers' rights and ensure that future immigration is regulated and controlled
- Enables immigrants to pursue higher education
- Protects immigrants from employment abuse by enforcing immigration and labor laws and eliminating exploitation of immigrant workers
- Prioritizes immigrant integration into our communities and country
- Respects the due-process rights of all in the United States
- Provides local governments with financial and technical assistance to deliver social services, health care, education, language services and civic integration

Seattle — and the State of Washington — will be stronger when our nation tackles the tough issue of reforming our broken immigration system. I urge you to continue the leadership you have already shown on this issue and to work for introduction of a comprehensive immigration reform bill in the Senate this March.

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Seattle's economy and families are counting on you to act on this issue. We are grateful for your service to our state and our country and for your leadership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael McGinn". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Mike McGinn
Mayor

Copy: President Barack Obama
Representative Jim McDermott
Representative Jay Inslee
Senator Patrick Leahy, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee