

Sample Op-Ed

As the immigration reform debate starts back up you might be surprised by the advocates in [your community] who are standing up for immigration reform. I am one of them. As a member of [faith, business, union, teacher or parent, etc] I care about immigration reform because [one or two sentences here-could express a belief or a personal story]. But I find myself advocating with community members from all walks of life--business leaders, unions, teachers, families, faith members, veterans, and immigrants from many different backgrounds—all united around the urgent need to fix our broken immigration system. We know that immigration touches every issue that we care about as a community.

Today there is not a workable solution that addresses the 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the shadows and who are part of our families and community. In fact 8.8 million people in the U.S. live in mixed status families— including 4 million U.S. born children and 1.5 million undocumented children. There is no system in place for undocumented immigrants to “get legal.” It is up to us to create a process that leads to lawful permanent resident status and eventual citizenship for the nearly 12 undocumented people in our country that includes an earned legalization program that might involve paying a fine, registering, and showing proof of paid taxes.

Economically, our immigration system is broken. Legalization will provide more tax payers, more consumption, a plan to remain globally competitive, and create a level playing field for all workers. Economically, our demand for workers in the U.S. has not matched the supply of workers in quite some time. When demand is great, we should not be surprised that supply will rise to meet demand. Additionally, we rely on our immigrant workforce for most of the growth in our labor force as our native-born workers—the baby boom generation—are “aging out” of the workforce at higher rates than immigrants. The mass retirement of America’s workers will impact every industry from aerospace to manufacturing.

The time for reform is now. Recently, a poll came out stating that six in ten people overall (61 percent) would support an immigration plan that would allow legalization of undocumented immigrants. The Obama Administration has stated that immigration will be priority for the President and we must hold him accountable to his promise. Often the immigration debate is dominated by a few loud voices. As a community, we must make sure to stand up for comprehensive immigration reform that meets our needs and values.

We at [name of organization or OneAmerica chapter group] are committed to finding workable solutions that uphold our nation’s values and move us forward together. We need a comprehensive immigration reform that meets the needs of our nation’s economy and families.

Your name

City