

## General Messaging for Fair and Inclusive Reform

- We need immigration laws that uphold American values of fairness and justice for all. The current system is ineffective and inhumane and continues to cause the unjust separation of thousands of families.
- Aspiring citizens come to the United States to work hard and make better lives for their families.
- Creating a common-sense immigration system that allows people to become citizens, pay taxes, and be full contributing members of our community will do more for America than expensive and impractical approaches like trying to deport millions of people.
- We must bring the millions of aspiring citizens out of the shadows; we must ensure that long time residents who have built their lives here have the opportunity to get on the path to citizenship.
- Federal reform must restore and expand judicial discretion and limit the number and categories of offenses that would exclude aspiring citizens from getting on the path to citizenship.
- We don't need Congress to pass one-size-fits all rules for automatic deportation that would end up sending away someone who was brought to the U.S. as a child or someone who served in the U.S. military, or committed a minor crime.
- We should make it possible for more immigrants to become legal rather than expanding the reasons to deport them. Immigrants should not be treated only as the sum of their mistakes in a nation that values second chances.
- Fair and effective law enforcement means everyone has the right to an attorney and the right to appear before a judge before being permanently banned from the US and separated from their families.
- Let judges do their jobs. If an immigrant is accused of committing a crime, a judge should be able to consider the circumstances of the case and decide whether he or she should be deported. A judge should be able to take into account family and community ties, including U.S. citizen children, contributions to community and family, length of residence in the U.S., military service, and the nature of the offense.
- No one—not long time residents of the United States or recent immigrants—should be thrown in jail without a hearing before a judge or a lawyer to represent them. In America, everyone should get a fair day in court.