

**Open Letter to President Obama
from the Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders**

April 4, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Mr. President:

We call upon you and Congress to enact humane bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform legislation that is consistent with not only our values as people of faith, but also our values as Americans. We recognize that family reunification is a core national value and interest, and we must continue our historic commitment to bringing families together.

To that end we affirm that:

- Families are at the core of who we are as a nation.
- Immigration reform must reunite families, not divide families and keep loved ones apart for years or even permanently.
- Family-based immigration is essential to ensuring the continued vitality of our economy.
- Immigration reform cannot be a choice between family-based or employment-based immigration—both systems must function to foster economic growth and promote social welfare.
- The myth of “chain migration” fails to articulate the reality faced by families who are separated for years, even decades.
- Family-based immigrants are committed to America; many have endured a decades-long wait for a chance at reunification and to become Americans.
- Mass deportations of the undocumented population must be rejected outright, as such actions would violate family unification principles, fail to address security concerns, and run counter to the values of American society. Comprehensive immigration reform must provide a holistic approach to reforming our immigration system.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these matters.

Faithfully yours,
The Los Angeles Council of Religious Leaders

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