

Senator Dianne Feinstein to Introduce Orange Card Program Amendment

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What is the Orange Card program?

The Feinstein Orange Card amendment replaces the three-tiered treatment of undocumented immigrants in S. 2611 (the bill now being considered by the senate) with one simple process that applies to undocumented immigrants who lived in the U.S. on 1/1/06 and meet certain other requirements.

Requirements for Orange Card

The requirements to get an Orange Card are as follows:

- Undocumented on 1/1/06
- Physically present in the U.S. on or before 1/1/06
- If over 18, employed or in school on 1/1/06
- Paid taxes
- Speak English
- Have an understanding of American Civics
- Pass criminal and security background checks
- Registered for the selective service if required
- Pay \$2,000 fine

The spouse and children of Orange Card holders may also qualify.

Requirements during waiting period

Orange Card holders may become lawful permanent residents when all current applicants for green cards have received them (estimated to be 6 years), or eight years after the bill becomes law, whichever is earlier.

Orange Card holders must check in each year with the government and show that they continue to meet all of the requirements listed above.

Requirements for permanent Green Card

After the 6-8 year waiting period, Orange Card holders may qualify for a permanent green card, if they meet the following requirements:

- Continue to meet all of the requirements to get an Orange Card
- If over 18, worked or attended school for at least 6 years

What are the advantages of the Orange Card program?

S. 2611 will exclude too many immigrants who are hard working, law abiding, and making important contributions to this country. In contrast, the Orange Card program:

- Provides one simple process to legalize qualifying undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. before 1/1/06
- Does not leave out millions of undocumented immigrants who live in the U.S. and contribute to the economy, as does the current version of S. 2611
- Treats all family members equally
- Is much easier to administer, resulting in less fraud and fewer problems
- For 2-5 year immigrants, provides:
 - No requirement to leave the U.S. and come back
 - No guestworker requirement
 - No waiver of right to appeal
 - Same waiting period as others

The best way to reform the law is to maximize the number of immigrants who legalize and to create a process that works.