

CCIR

Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our strong support for the Feinstein “Orange Card” amendment to replace the three-tiered treatment of undocumented immigrants in S. 2611 with one simple process. The amendment would apply to undocumented immigrants who lived in the U.S. on January 1, 2006 and meet other strict requirements including paying taxes, learning English, passing criminal and security background checks, and paying a \$2000 fine.

Under the Feinstein amendment 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. This means that they are essentially “in line” behind those who are currently awaiting visas through our legal immigration system. Orange Card holders must check in each year with the government and show that they continue to meet all of the requirements listed above.

There are numerous other important advantages of the Feinstein Orange Card amendment including: one simple process to legalize qualifying undocumented immigrants who entered the U.S. before January 1, 2006; equal treatment of all family members; and ease of administration with less potential for fraud. Moreover, the amendment increases the effectiveness of comprehensive immigration reform by maximizing the extent to which undocumented immigrants currently in the United States can access a path to U.S. citizenship.

We are deeply concerned that S. 2611 will exclude too many immigrants who are hard working, law abiding, and making important contributions to this country. We believe the best way to reform the law is to maximize the number of immigrants who legalize and to create a workable process. We urge you to recognize the many contributions that these immigrants make to our country and to provide a path to citizenship, which is consistent with the spirit of S. 2611 in that immigrants will have to meet the same requirements for working, paying taxes, learning English, and waiting in line behind others. Yet the “Orange Card” amendment avoids the unnecessary and cumbersome parallel processes of S. 2611, which will be difficult to administer and will leave too many immigrants behind.

We strongly support the Feinstein Orange Card amendment and urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

ACORN
Acercamiento Hispano de Carolina del Sur
The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Friends Service Committee, Miami
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Americans for Equality
Asian Law Caucus
Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN)
CASA of Maryland, Inc.
Cabrini Immigrant Services, New York City
Center for Community Change
The Center for Justice, Peace and the Environment
Center for Economic Progress
Center for Social Advocacy
Central American Resource Center/CARECEN-L.A.
Centro Campesino Inc.
Church World Service Immigration and Refugee Program
Coalition for Asian American Children and Families (CACF)
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
Coalition of Irish Immigration Centers
Coalition for New South Carolinians
Community Economic Development Center of SE Massachusetts
Committee for Social Justice in Colombia
Community Wellness Partnership of Pomona
Day without an Immigrant Coalition
Dignity Through Dialogue and Education
Dolores Mission Church, Los Angeles
Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church
El Centro Hispanoamericano
El Centro, Inc.
Empire Justice Center
En Camino, Diocese of Toledo
Episcopal Migration Ministries
FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement)
Family & Children's Service
Fanm Ayisyen Nan Miyami/Haitian Women of Miami, Inc.
The Farmworker Association of Florida Inc.
Farmworker Justice
Farmworkers Association of Florida
Filipino American Human Services, Inc. (FAHSI)
Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center (FIAC)
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Friends and Neighbors of Immigrants
Fuerza Latina
Fundacion Salvadoreña de la Florida
The Gamaliel Foundation
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO)
Guatemalan Unity Information Agency
Haitian Women of Miami
HIAS and Council Migration Service of Philadelphia
Heartland Alliance
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)
Hispanic American Association
Hispanic Coalition Corp.
Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey
Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association
Hispanic Women's Organization of Arkansas
Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church, San Jose, CA
Idaho Community Action Network
Illinois Coalition for Immigration and Refugee Rights
Immigration Equality
Immigrant Legal Resource Center
Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, California
Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice of South Central Wisconsin (ICWJ)
The Interfaith Council for Religion, Race, Economic and Social Justice, San Jose, CA
Intl. Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, Miami
International Immigrants Foundation
International Institute of Rhode Island
International Social Work Organization-University of Maryland School of Social Work
Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Irish American Unity Conference
Irish Apostolate USA
Irish Immigration Center
Irish Immigration Pastoral Center, San Francisco
Irish Lobby for Immigration Reform
ISAI AH, Twin Cities and St. Cloud Regions, MN
Kentucky Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform (KCCIR)
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center, Chicago, IL
Korean Resource Center, Los Angeles, CA
JUNTOS
Jesuit Conference
Jewish Council For Public Affairs
Joseph Law Firm, PC
LULAC
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement, LCLAA
Lahore Foundation, Inc.
Latin American Immigrants Federation Corp.
Latin American Integration Center, New York City
Latino and Latina Roundtable of the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona Valley
Latino Leadership, Inc.
Latinos en Acción de CCI, a chapter of Iowa Citizens For Community Improvement
Law Office of Kimberly Salinas
League of Rural Voters
Legal Momentum
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS)
Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New Jersey
MALDEF
Make the Road by Walking
Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)
Medical Mission Sisters' Alliance for Justice
Merrill Peace Study Group
Michigan Organizing Project
Migrant Legal Action Program
Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights
Minnesota Immigrant Freedom Network
The Multi-Cultural Alliance of Prince George's County Inc.
Nashville Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
National Capital Immigration Coalition (NCIC)

National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of La Raza
National Employment Law Project
National Farm Worker Ministry (NFWM)
National Immigration Forum
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium, Los Angeles, CA
Nationalities Service Center
Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest
Neighborhood House at The Paul & Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building
Neighbors Helping Neighbors
NETWORK--A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
New York Immigration Coalition
Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition
Northwest Federation of Community Organizations
ONE Lowell, Lowell, MA
Office for Social Justice, Catholic Archdiocese of St. Paul/Minneapolis
Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)
Pennsylvania ACORN
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition (PICC)
People For the American Way (PFAW)
Pilsen Neighbors Community Council
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN)
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office
Project HOPE
Project for Pride in Living
Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission
Rockland Immigration Coalition
Rural Coalition/Coalicion Rural
S & G Enterprises
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
St. Francis Xavier Social Concerns Committee
Seattle Irish Immigrant Support Group
Society of Jesus, New York Province
South Asian American Leaders of Tomorrow
Spanish Community of Wallingford, Inc.
Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)
UJA-Federation of New York
UN DIA (United Dubuque Immigrant Alliance)
UNITE HERE!
U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI)
Unite for Dignity for Immigrant Workers Rights, Inc.
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Farm Workers
United Food and Commercial Workers
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
United Methodist Church, General Commission of Religion and Race
United Methodist Hispanic Ministries of North Alabama
Virginia Justice Center for Farm and Immigrant Workers
Washington Citizen Action
We Count!
Westchester Hispanic Coalition
Westside Community Action Network Center (Westside CAN Center)
The Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring
World Relief
YKASEC - Empowering the Korean American Community, New York, NY
Yee & Durkin, LLP