

State Attorneys General

A Communication from the Chief Legal Officers of the Following States and Territories:

**Arkansas * California * Colorado * Connecticut * Delaware
District of Columbia * Guam * Hawaii * Idaho * Illinois * Indiana * Iowa
Louisiana * Maine * Maryland * Massachusetts * Michigan * Mississippi
Missouri * Nevada * New Hampshire * New Mexico * New York * North Carolina
North Dakota * Oregon * Puerto Rico * Rhode Island * South Dakota
Tennessee * Utah * Vermont * Virgin Islands * Washington * Wyoming**

April 9, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, Minority Leader Pelosi,

We are a bipartisan group of state attorneys general who recognize that immigration policy is primarily a federal responsibility. We are writing to convey our support for federal immigration reform that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe and protects our borders.

We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is the utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and the integrity of our national borders. We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, safeguards witnesses and victims, and considers national security implications for porous borders. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and the unintended consequences to businesses, workers and consumers. A broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably and affordably determine who's permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.

Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses in the various states, with state input, while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective in meeting

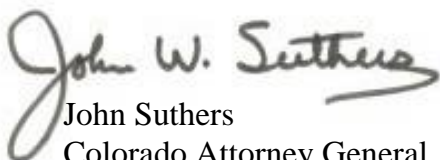
the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, tax payers, and consumers.

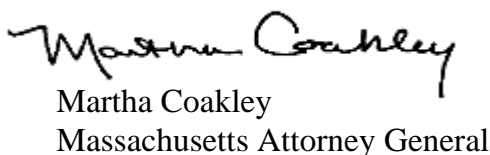
Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environment for all the children across our country.

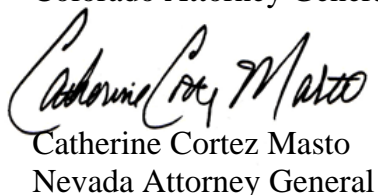
Our immigration policies must provide a sensible means to deal with the immigrants who are currently in the country without legal status but are of good character, pay taxes and are committed to continuing to contribute to our society.

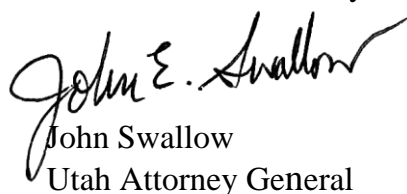
We look forward to working with you as you move forward in this process and lending our voice and expertise as you develop legislation.

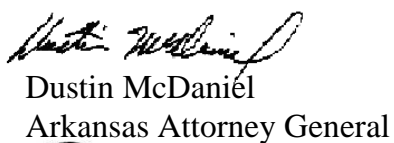
Sincerely,

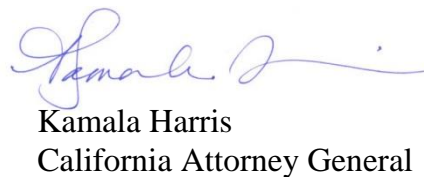

John Suthers
Colorado Attorney General

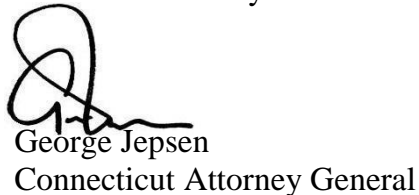

Martha Coakley
Massachusetts Attorney General

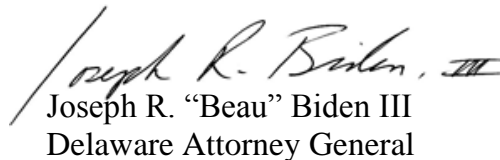

Catherine Cortez Masto
Nevada Attorney General

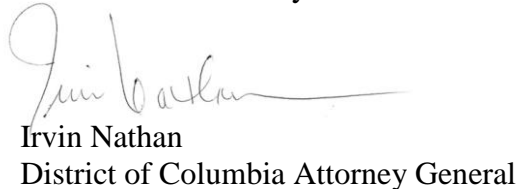

John Swallow
Utah Attorney General

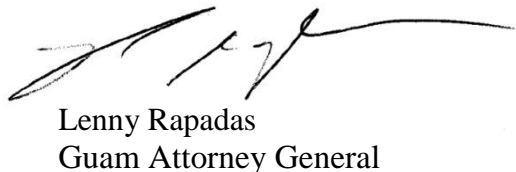

Dustin McDaniel
Arkansas Attorney General


Kamala Harris
California Attorney General


George Jepsen
Connecticut Attorney General

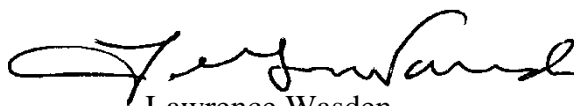

Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III
Delaware Attorney General


Irvin Nathan
District of Columbia Attorney General


Lenny Rapadas
Guam Attorney General



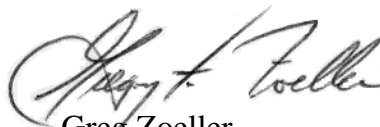
David Louie
Hawaii Attorney General



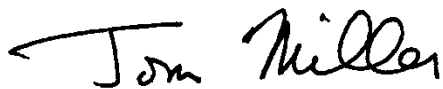
Lawrence Wasden
Idaho Attorney General



Lisa Madigan
Illinois Attorney General



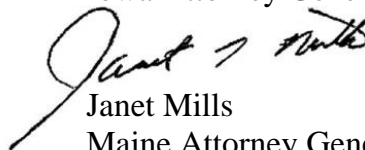
Greg Zoeller
Indiana Attorney General



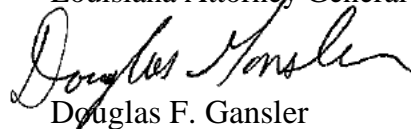
Tom Miller
Iowa Attorney General



James "Buddy" Caldwell
Louisiana Attorney General



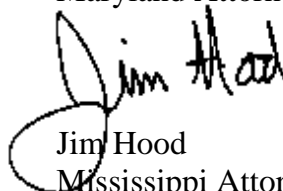
Janet Mills
Maine Attorney General



Douglas F. Gansler
Maryland Attorney General



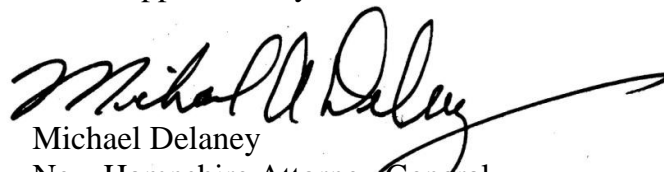
Bill Schuette
Michigan Attorney General



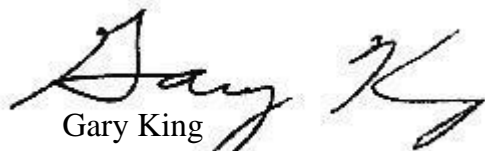
Jim Hood
Mississippi Attorney General



Chris Koster
Missouri Attorney General



Michael Delaney
New Hampshire Attorney General



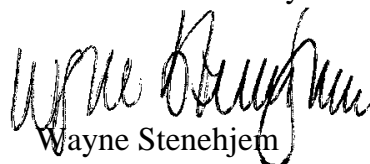
Gary King
New Mexico Attorney General



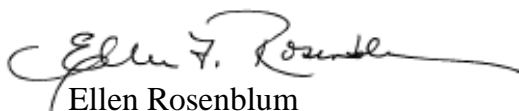
Eric Schneiderman
New York Attorney General



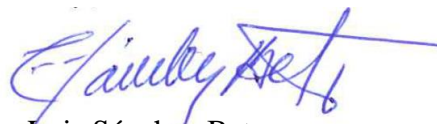
Roy Cooper
North Carolina Attorney General



Wayne Stenehjem
North Dakota Attorney General



Ellen Rosenblum
Oregon Attorney General



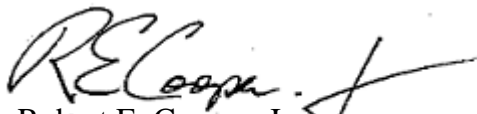
Luis Sánchez Betances
Puerto Rico Attorney General



Peter Kilmartin
Rhode Island Attorney General



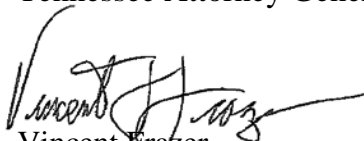
Marty J. Jackley
South Dakota Attorney General



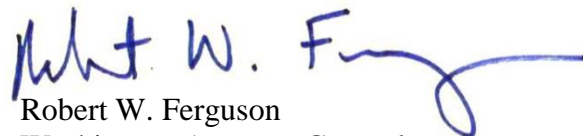
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.
Tennessee Attorney General



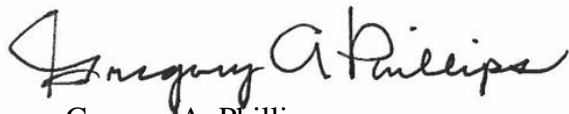
William H. Sorrell
Vermont Attorney General



Vincent Frazer
Virgin Islands Attorney General



Robert W. Ferguson
Washington Attorney General



Gregory A. Phillips
Wyoming Attorney General

Cc: United States Attorney General Eric Holder
Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano