



# IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

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...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in America

## TALKING POINTS

### IMMIGRATION REFORM & ECONOMIC RECOVERY

*Americans want immigration reform that promotes economic recovery.*

- [By a 2-1 margin](#), the American public believes that requiring undocumented workers to register, get legal, and pay taxes is better for America's economy than requiring 7 million workers to leave the U.S.
- Requiring undocumented workers to become legal taxpayers will create a level playing field for all workers and employers and will promote economic recovery.
- Legalization will close the trap door at the bottom of the wage scale and help lift wages for all workers.

*The current system empowers bad-apple employers and distorts economic conditions for all employers.*

- A few bad-apple employers undercut honest competitors, avoid paying their fair share of taxes, and drive down wages and working conditions for all workers.
- When 5% of the U.S. workforce lacks legal status, bad-actor employers can manipulate and exploit a significant segment of the workforce to the detriment of all workers.
- Legalizing workers will cut the legs out from under exploitive employers and generate critical revenues needed to advance economic recovery.

*Reform that regulates our globally integrated labor market will protect honest American businesses that want to hire needed immigrant workers.*

- We need to look beyond the current crisis and recognize that immigrant workers will help our economy get back on its feet, as they always have in our nation's history.
- By creating legal channels for workers to come in the future, we will be protecting U.S. workers from unfair competition while facilitating long-term economic growth and innovation.

*Reform that enables DHS to prioritize security threats will make us safer and help our bottom line.*

- Reform that legalizes the undocumented workforce and creates legal channels for future workers will allow us to focus resources on real security threats.
- Instead of throwing billions of taxpayer dollars into the pursuit of busboys, immigration reform will increase revenues for state and local governments at a time of massive budget deficits.

*Immigration reform pays for itself, and then some.*

- **The 2006 immigration reform bill, which included a legalization program, would have more than paid for itself through increased tax revenue.** The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) and the Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) [estimated](#) that, as originally introduced on April 7, 2006, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006 would have raised \$66 billion in new revenue during 2007-2016 from income and payroll taxes, as well as various administrative fees.
- **The 2007 immigration reform bill, which included a legalization program, would have more than paid for itself through increased tax revenue.** The CBO and JCT [estimated](#) that the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2007, as amended by the Senate through May 24, 2007, would have generated \$48 billion in new revenue during 2008-2017, primarily through Social Security payroll taxes.

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\*Special thanks to the American Immigration Lawyers Association for their help in developing this document.

**THE IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER**

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