

## 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

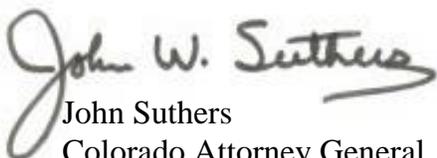
the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, tax payers, and consumers.

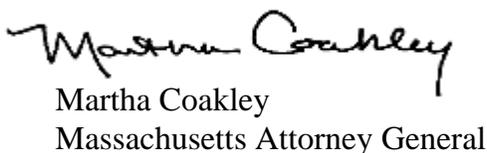
Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environment for all the children across our country.

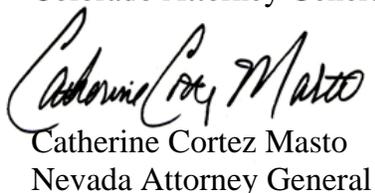
Our immigration policies must provide a sensible means to deal with the immigrants who are currently in the country without legal status but are of good character, pay taxes and are committed to continuing to contribute to our society.

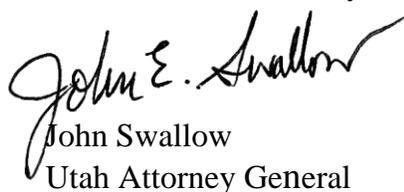
We look forward to working with you as you move forward in this process and lending our voice and expertise as you develop legislation.

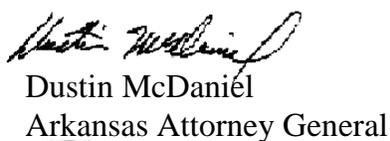
Sincerely,

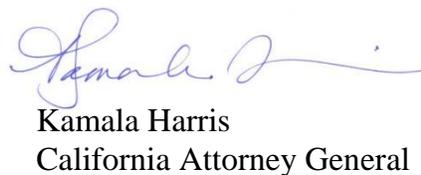
  
John Suthers  
Colorado Attorney General

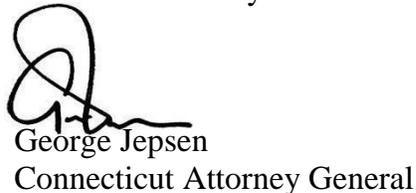
  
Martha Coakley  
Massachusetts Attorney General

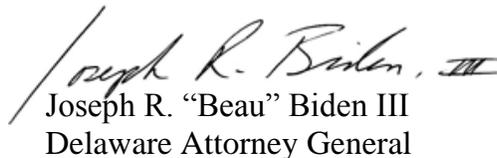
  
Catherine Cortez Masto  
Nevada Attorney General

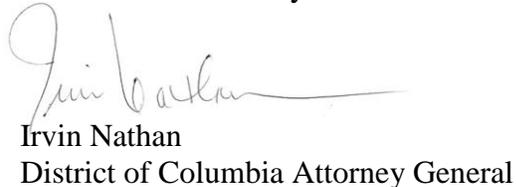
  
John Swallow  
Utah Attorney General

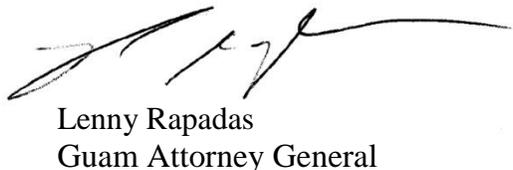
  
Dustin McDaniel  
Arkansas Attorney General

  
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

Lisa Madigan  
Illinois Attorney General

Tom Miller  
Iowa Attorney General

Janet Mills  
Maine Attorney General

Bill Schuette  
Michigan Attorney General

Chris Koster  
Missouri Attorney General

Gary King  
New Mexico Attorney General

Roy Cooper  
North Carolina Attorney General

Ellen Rosenblum  
Oregon Attorney General

Lawrence Wasden  
Idaho Attorney General

Greg Zoeller  
Indiana Attorney General

James "Buddy" Caldwell  
Louisiana Attorney General

Douglas F. Gansler  
Maryland Attorney General

Jim Hood  
Mississippi Attorney General

Michael Delaney  
New Hampshire Attorney General

Eric Schneiderman  
New York Attorney General

Wayne Stenehjem  
North Dakota Attorney General

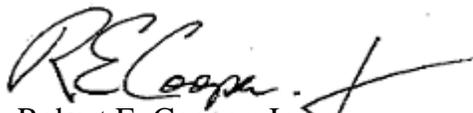
Luis Sánchez Betances  
Puerto Rico Attorney General



Peter Kilmartin  
Rhode Island Attorney General



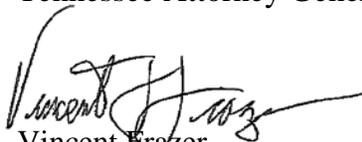
Marty J. Jackley  
South Dakota Attorney General



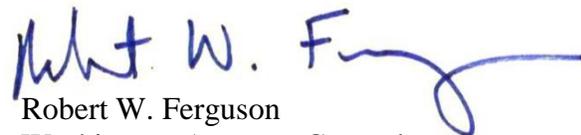
Robert E. Cooper, Jr.  
Tennessee Attorney General



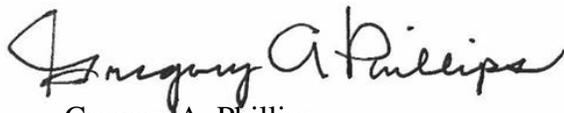
William H. Sorrell  
Vermont Attorney General



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