

COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM
Background Information (from sources believed to be reliable)

- 1-Of the estimated 11-12 million unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. today. About 40% are believed to be people who overstayed their visas.
- 2-Some 700,000 people overstayed their visas in 2015. Only 2500 were deported.
- 3-66% of unauthorized adult workers have lived in the U.S. more than 10 years. Only 14% have lived here for less than 5 years.
- 4-Studies have shown that unauthorized workers have little or no impact on the wages of native workers. Unions disagree !
- 5-It is currently not illegal for anyone to use a fake Social Security number for identification purposes as long as they do not “knowingly” use a number belonging to another person.
- 6-Studies have shown that unauthorized workers as a group do not consume more government services than they contribute in taxes, fees, etc.
- 7-The current E-Verify System for employers to check the immigrant status of workers is voluntary.
- 8-In 2009, 66% of legal immigrants admitted to the U.S. had family here, 13% were admitted for work/job skills and 17% were admitted for humanitarian reasons.
- 9-Under current immigration rules there are essentially no quotas for unskilled workers with no U.S. family relationship. (Contrary to what some say, unskilled workers who are here illegally can not “go back home and get in line”. There is no line for them)
- 10- The crime rate for unauthorized immigrants is actually lower than for citizens. Many believe that is because fear of getting caught and deported deters criminal activity.
- 11-Most unauthorized immigrant workers have jobs that natives do not want. They do have some impact on low skilled native worker opportunities.
- 12- All unauthorized immigrants are entitled under U.S. law to a hearing before an Immigration Judge before being deported. Immigration Courts are currently clogged with waiting times for a hearing 2 years or more in some places.
- 13- The current Guest Worker Program (H2A and H2B) for seasonal and temporary workers is complex and cumbersome. Few farm workers currently covered.
- 14-Immigrants make major contributions of new patents, new businesses, innovation, etc., out of proportion vs the native population.