
Comprehensive Immigration Reform Is Needed To Restore Integrity To Our Immigration System

The American Bar Association (ABA) supports comprehensive immigration reform that both preserves our national security and realistically addresses the U.S. undocumented population and the need for immigrant labor.

- **Our Broken Immigration System Can Only Be Fixed Through Comprehensive Reform**
 - The ABA is committed to restoring the rule of law to our country's immigration system.
 - Congress must fix the underlying systemic flaws that have produced the current problem by:
 1. Creating workable legal channels to meet current and future labor needs, and allow for family reunification;
 2. Realistically addressing the current undocumented population;
 3. Eliminating the persistent backlogs in the system; and
 4. Promoting national security through identity and security checks.
 - The ABA opposes temporary worker programs that create "permanent temporary status" or require "work and return."
 - Requiring undocumented workers to depart the U.S. to legalize their status disrupts the workforce and harms businesses that rely on immigrant labor.
 - Removal is not realistic or necessary for undocumented workers who have otherwise abided by the law while in the U.S.

- **The ABA opposes elimination of administrative and judicial review of removal decisions and limitations on judicial review in the federal courts**
 - The choice between effective enforcement of our immigration laws and due process and judicial review is a false one, and any reform of the system must recognize that our country's fundamental tenets of access to counsel and access to the courts are necessary to a functioning immigration system that will earn the respect of all Americans.
 - Requiring residents to waive administrative or judicial review to apply for legal status is antithetical to core American values.
 - A removal determination should be individualized and fact-specific, as the consequences of removal are severe, including separation from immediate family.
 - The ABA opposes expansion of expedited removal, which denies legitimate asylum seekers and others due process and access to counsel.

- **The ABA opposes criminalization of civil violations of immigration law and state and local enforcement of immigration laws**
 - Criminalization of minor civil infractions will result in significant costs to our justice system and unduly harsh consequences for otherwise law-abiding members of our communities and workforce.
 - Criminalization of civil violations such as undocumented presence or entry will prevent legitimate asylum seekers from obtaining protection.
 - State and local enforcement of immigration laws undermines public safety by diverting resources and deterring immigrants from reporting crimes to the police.

For more information please contact Kristi Gaines at 202-662-1763 or Megan Mack at 202-662-1005; or visit <http://www.abanet.org/publicserv/immigration/home.html>