

# Immigration News Update



American Friends  
Service Committee

July 26, 2013

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) has worked with immigrant and refugee communities in the US and worldwide since 1917. Today, we are organizing to support fair and humane immigration reform that respects the human, labor and civil rights of all immigrants. This is our weekly community immigration news update to keep people as informed as possible about recent developments in federal immigration policy legislation.

Get the latest news and action alerts by joining our mailing list (currently only in English). [Sign up at: afsc.org/immigrantsrights](http://afsc.org/immigrantsrights)

## Legislative Updates

In the Senate:

On June 27, the full Senate voted on S744, the Senate immigration bill and it passed by a vote of 68-32. This bill included billions of dollars to further militarize the US-Mexico border. The bill also included new “triggers” that must be met before “Registered Provisional Immigrants” (the status that undocumented residents will be able to apply for, if the bill becomes law) can apply for a green card.

In the House of Representatives:

*For a bill to become law, it must pass both the Senate AND the House. Right now, House leaders have said that they do not like and will not adopt the Senate bill. There is still no comprehensive reform bill in the US House, though there is a “Gang of 7” of House members that is supposedly trying to work on this.*

*Some Representatives are introducing bills that each deal with a different aspect of reform (border security, visas, etc.), but so far there are no bills that provide a path to legalization. House leaders say they are opposed to a path to citizenship.*

On Tuesday, the House Judiciary Committee conducted a hearing to discuss undocumented immigrants

brought to the United States during their childhood years, frequently referred to as “DREAMers” (based on past federal legislation that would have provided this unique population a route to citizenship, the DREAM Act).

Witnesses before the Committee included US Representatives, a migration expert, a member of the faith community, a DREAMer, and the sibling of a DREAMer.

As of this writing, no bill pertaining to DREAMers or young undocumented immigrants has been introduced. House Republicans have stated that such a bill will soon be introduced, the KIDS Act, which would provide a way for some undocumented individuals brought while underage to attain legal status.

However, there are many immigrant groups, including many groups of DREAMERS, who oppose this kind of limited path to legal status.

## WARNING!

There is NO  
immigration reform yet!!

A bill has passed the Senate, but not yet the House of Representatives. In the House, there is even more opposition to a path to residency. There is still a long road ahead. Even if the law does pass, many people will not qualify. It is important to get reliable legal help.

- Do not pay anyone any fees now!
- Do not rely on public notaries for legal advice!

Many immigrants and advocates who are working for a wide and inclusive path to citizenship are very troubled by this plan, because it excludes so many other people: certain categories of DREAMers, undocumented parents and family members.

Please stay tuned for updates regarding progress of this bill and other House proposals impacting immigrant communities!

## Did You Know?

**The U.S. spends more on immigration enforcement than ALL federal criminal law enforcement agencies combined.**

Immigration Enforcement (Border Patrol, ICE, US-VISIT) – \$18 billion

FBI- \$8.1 billion + Drug Enforcement- \$2 billion + Secret Service- \$2 billion + US Marshalls- \$1.2 billion + Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms-\$1.2 billion = \$14.5 billion

Source: “Immigration Enforcement in the US” Migration Policy Institute, Jan 2013



## This Week's Action Alert

Members of Congress will be visiting their home communities during most of the month of August. This is a great chance to share your views with your House Representatives. Take this opportunity to:

### 1) Schedule a meeting

Call your representative (see below) to see if he/she or a staff member is available to meet with you and/or your group about why you believe immigration reform is essential. You do not have to be a US citizen to talk to your representatives, but they do prefer that you live in their district. AFSC staff can help you with talking points, or help you get the meeting, if needed.

- Call the Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121
- Tell the operator that you need to find out who your representative is. They will ask you for your zip code, then tell you who it is. Then, they can transfer you directly to the office of your representative.
- When the staff person picks up the phone (or you can leave a message), you might say something like: "Hello, I live in \_\_\_\_\_ (your city) and I would like to set up a meeting with the Representative to talk about immigration reform while he/she is at home in August. Can you help me with that?"

### 2) Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper

While Representatives are at home, they are reading the newspaper, and the Letters to the Editor page of the paper is an easy way to share your opinion. You can get tips and examples at [www.tinyurl.com/immigrationLTE](http://www.tinyurl.com/immigrationLTE) (from our NC office; in English only).

## Be Prepared!

Remember, there is no immigration reform yet! We face a lot of opposition. We must continue to organize and mobilize to make sure we gain a pathway to residency and a humane reform. Even if the bill does pass, many people will not qualify.

### Important Documents

You can begin collecting today the documents you will likely need if the bill passes.

You will need to prove:

- *Who you are* (drivers' license, passport, military id, voter card, etc.)
- *Where you were born* (birth certificate)
- *Where you live* & how long you have been here (pay stubs, utility bills, school records, etc.)
- *Taxes* You may also need to show proof that you have paid taxes. Start collecting now any tax returns you have filed over the years and try to take care of any taxes you have not paid.

Step #7. House is working on individual bills, no path to citizenship yet.

## Resources

Pamphlet (*Panfleto*) with summary of S744 bill components (pre-Amendments)

English: [tinyurl.com/CHIPpamphlet1](http://tinyurl.com/CHIPpamphlet1) Español: [tinyurl.com/panfleto3](http://tinyurl.com/panfleto3)

Immigration Values 101: English: [tinuyurl.com/afscimm](http://tinuyurl.com/afscimm) Español: [tinyurl.com/valores-imm](http://tinyurl.com/valores-imm)

New Path: AFSC principles for immigration policy

Full document and a 4-page summary in English and in Spanish available at: [afsc.org/newpath](http://afsc.org/newpath).

CONTACT INFO: