

August 27, 2010

**Bridging America:
A Declaration of Principles in Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform
from New Jersey Stakeholders**

We, the undersigned, come from a variety of backgrounds: big and small businesses, the professions, government, unions, religious communities, K-12 education, healthcare, law enforcement, higher education, social services, advocacy and public affairs.

1. We agree that immigration brings diversity, vitality, creativity and economic stimulus to the state. Immigrants make up a significant share of the diverse workforce that keeps New Jersey competitive in the global market place. High-skilled immigrant workers advance technology and research, while lesser-skilled foreign-born workers provide the labor and the care necessary to sustain many service industries. All immigrants, whether high or lesser-skilled, have high rates of entrepreneurship and stimulate employment and community revitalization through their efforts.
2. We agree that the current patchwork of immigration laws, some dating back more than half a century, does not meet our country's needs, and that our immigration system needs to be thoroughly reformed.
3. Such reform must preserve the cherished American values enshrined in our founding documents by:
 - ensuring basic **due process for all consistent with protection of human rights and human dignity** while recognizing the prerogative of the US to control **its national borders** and protect its workplace standards
 - promoting **family values** and economic growth through a flexible mechanism for admission to the US, **that anticipates labor market needs and responds effectively to the global competition for talent and labor**
 - charting a **fair but rigorous path to citizenship** for law-abiding undocumented residents
 - **incorporating immigrants and their children** fully into the fabric of American life, so that they, and the communities in which they reside, can realize their full potential
 - protecting the **integrity of every person's labor** -- native and foreign-born, white-collar and blue -- including the right to a minimum wage, to standard hours, safe conditions, and recourse against any unfair treatment
4. From vastly different vantage points we all desire a strong United States that values all of the people who make it work, and that is committed to the features that help make it great, among them: democracy, innovation, diversity, fairness and the rule of law.

Signatories

Affiliations listed are for identification purposes only

Chief James P. Abbott - M Ed., West Orange Police Department

Anil Bansal – President of the Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce

Rt. Rev. Mark M. Beckwith- Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Newark

Kevin Brown – NJ Area Director of Local 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

Dale G. Caldwell – Author of “School To Work To Success”

Reynaldo Caudillo – Founder and President of Los Caudillos International Inc.

Mary Helen Cervantes – Director of Communications and Legislation for the NJ Department of Children and Families

Upendra Chivukula - NJ State Assemblyman

Rafael Cuellar – CEO of Passaic, NJ-based Cuellar LLC, Member of the NJ State Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee

Marcy Cohen – Director of the Center for International Faculty and Student Services at Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Rev. Bruce Davidson – Director of the Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry in New Jersey

Joan Diefenbach - Exec. Director, NJ Council of Churches

Chief Kurt M. Dombrowski – Officer in Charge of the Caldwell Police Department

Alexis Durlacher – Detective with the Trenton Police Department

Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Ph.D. – Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Research Associate at the Office of Population Research, Princeton University

Allyson Gall – NJ Area Director of American Jewish Committee

Martin Johnson – President and Founder of Isles, Inc.

Ryan Stark Lilienthal – Immigration lawyer in Princeton, NJ and Board Member of NJIPN

Anastasia R. Mann, Ph.D. – Director of Program on Immigration and Democracy at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University

Dennis R. McManimon – Undersheriff of the Mercer County Sheriff’s Office

Dr. Nicholas V. Montalto – President of Diversity Dynamics

Daniel Santo Pietro – Former Executive Director of the Hispanic Directors Association (HDANJ)

Kim Jensen Pimley – Central NJ President of AJC and President of P&P Training Resources

Dr. Clement Price- Director, Institute on Ethnicity, Culture and the Modern Experience, Rutgers U.

Bishop Roy Riley - NJ Synod-Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

Edwin R. Rubin – Immigration lawyer and Past National President of the American Immigration Lawyer’s Association (AILA)

Rev. Eugene P. Squeo – Co-pastor of the Parish of St. Patrick & Assumption/All Saints in Jersey City, NJ

Catherine Tansey – Executive Director of the International Institute of New Jersey (IINJ)

Firoozeh Vali – Vice President of Research at Health Research and Educational Trust