Migration has been a consistent aspect of the human experience throughout history and continues to be a defining characteristic of the United States. Economic, social and political realities are closely linked to the decision, and often the necessity, for people to migrate. Currently close to 200 million people live outside their country of birth worldwide.

Immigrants and the Impact to the U.S. Economy –

The Facts about Immigration and Economic Growth

Almost all people living in the U.S. today are immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. The majority of immigrants today work in vital industries, such as agriculture, construction, and service.

Economic growth is achieved by adding workers to the labor force – increasing productivity – and through innovation. Immigrants contribute to both.

Immigrants know that they need to work hard and they do. Between 2003-2012, immigrants have contributed to more than half of the increase in the number of workers in America’s labor force.

Entrepreneurship is another factor that enables an economy to expand. Immigrants have a proven track record of starting new businesses. According to a report by the Fiscal Policy Institute in 2010, immigrants accounted for 18% of all small businesses owners despite representing 13% of the total U.S. population in that year.

If America’s immigration laws were different, the U.S. economy would grow faster. Economist Richard Vedder estimates that if the U.S. had adopted a pro-growth immigration policy framework in the 1960s, real GDP growth would average approximately 3.1% in the years 1970 to 2011, compared to the actual 2.8% during those years.

Immigrants lead in new industries. Between 1995 and 2005, more than half of all major engineering and technology firms founded in Silicon Valley had an immigrant as a key founder. Researchers estimate that collectively, these immigrant-founded companies nationwide generated more than $52 billion in sales and created nearly 450,000 jobs in 2005.

Compared with Native Born Citizens, Immigrants are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>NB: Native Born</th>
<th>FB: Foreign Born</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely to live in a married-couple household</td>
<td>NB: 57.9%</td>
<td>FB: 62.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to be employed</td>
<td>NB: 56.5%</td>
<td>FB: 60.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to be of a working age between 25-64</td>
<td>NB: 50%</td>
<td>FB: 70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely to be under 18 years old</td>
<td>NB: 26.3%</td>
<td>FB: 6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to have an advanced degree</td>
<td>NB: 10.5%</td>
<td>FB: 11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to publish a scholarly work</td>
<td>NB: 14.4%</td>
<td>FB: 17.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to commercialize a patent</td>
<td>NB: 0.6%</td>
<td>FB: 1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More likely to own a company with 10 or more employees</td>
<td>NB: 57.9%</td>
<td>FB: 62.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from Growth and Immigration: A Handbook of Vital Immigration and Economic Growth Statistics by Matthew Denhart of the George W. Bush Institute
Immigration Reform Legislation Should Include

*Immigration Reform* stimulates strong opinions and emotions. No matter what side of the issue one leans toward, it’s clear that the status quo is not preferred. We need to focus on solutions. It is imperative that both parties and both chambers of Congress work hard to produce a bill which upholds the values which all Americans cherish—hard work, opportunity, and compassion. These include:

**A Fair Path to Citizenship**
Would help stabilize the workforce, strengthen the family, and bring a large population “out of the shadows,” as members of their communities to contribute fully without fear.

**Support Family Unity**
Immigrant families contribute to the economy and contribute to the wellbeing of all our communities across the country. Family unity strengthens our social backbone. Regulations across the different enforcement agencies that separate families and create additional problems.

**Protect Children**
Our immigration policies often fail to address the needs of millions of children whom they directly impact. Stop deportations of young adults who arrive in this country through no fault of their own and only know this country as their home.

**Reject Enforcement Only**
The enforcement-without-reform approach to unauthorized immigration has failed. Enforcing a dysfunctional immigration system as a prerequisite for reforming that system is not a solution. Immigration reform that includes a pathway to legal status, which includes creation of flexible avenues for future immigration, would enhance border security and help bring unauthorized immigration under control.

**Consider Additional Legislation that Addresses Root Causes of Migration**
In the long term view, our nation must address global issues for immigration reform to be effective. Conflict, free trade, severe poverty and climate change impact migration flows. Progress on these issues can change the conditions that influence immigration. No wall will stop desperate people compelled to provide the most basic needs for themselves and their families. Advocate for policies that thwart the need for migration.

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**Secure the Border First? The Border is Already Secure**
Some legislators insist that the border needs to be secure before any talks about immigration reform can continue. The fact is that the border is already secure.

**15,000**
2007

**21,000**
2013

There has been a 40% increase in border patrol agents since 2007. In addition:
- Ten Predator drones patrol the skies
- Tower-mounted cameras dot the deserts
- Ground sensors monitor land movements

**$18,000,000,000.00**
Annual Bill for Border Enforcement
Border enforcement costs more than all other federal criminal-law-enforcement agencies combined according to the Migration Policy Institute.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CBP ICE</th>
<th>$18 BILLION</th>
<th>&gt;</th>
<th>$14.4 BILLION</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ATF, DEA, FBI, SECRET SERVICE &amp; US MARSHALS</td>
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</table>

**Links & Videos**
- What 4% Growth Would Mean for America
- How Immigration Reform Will Make Our Economy Stronger
  http://1.usa.gov/17BvU8F
- Immigration and Growth
- “Immigration Myths Debunked”

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**Take action: Contact your Senators and Representatives and let them know where you stand.**

**Capitol Switchboard**
202-224-3121