

One California Pledge signed with the California Immigrant Policy Center

Preamble: From the fields of the Central valley to downtown city skyscrapers, from the smallest “mom-and-pop” businesses to the most influential high-tech giants, immigrants help to drive California’s economic and cultural engines. Immigrants want to realize their full potential to contribute and strengthen our state, yet an outdated Federal system prevents many immigrants from doing so. Sadly, some states have expressed their frustration with this broken system by proposing extreme policies that undermine some of our nation’s most cherished values.

There is a better way. We, the undersigned, believe that California must define a vision for its future that honors our state’s spirit of inclusion and diversity. We believe in:

PROSPERITY: Californians face difficult challenges to overcoming the effects of our nation’s economic crisis. It is important that everyone contribute to rebuilding our economy and creating prosperity..

OPPORTUNITY: Californians are innovators who value opportunity; we treasure our varied cultural traditions, work hard and enjoy the fruits of our labor. We urge lawmakers to adopt policies that recognize the role immigrants play in making this vision a reality.

PUBLIC SAFETY: We respect laws and support efforts among law enforcement agencies in California that focus on public safety and stop crime. We believe we should prioritize policies that encourage cooperation between the police and residents, keep families together, protect civil rights and respect due process.

REAL SOLUTIONS: Together, Californians can help lead the nation by supporting immigration reform now for the benefit of California and the country. Reform of the immigration system is a federal, not a state responsibility. We need an updated system that can better respond to our nation's needs and supports family unity.

Immigrants are part of our communities and are already integrated into many neighborhoods across California. Let our approach to this reality be humane, reflecting our unique culture and spirit of inclusion. Let us establish California as a place that welcomes people of goodwill, offers opportunity and allows for everyone to contribute.