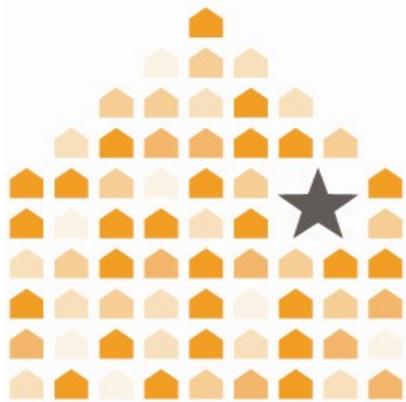


Taking Action on Immigration Reform on Behalf of Immigrant Survivors



N NEDV
NATIONAL NETWORK
TO END DOMESTIC
VIOLENCE



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The Process

Senate Bill: S 744

-Passed the Judiciary Committee May 28, 2013

-Passed the Senate June 27, 2013

House Bill

-various bills introduced

-HR 15 introduced Oct 2, 2013

-various smaller bills have been introduced and passed the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees

THE ROAD TO REFORM

We have a bill, NOT a reform law.

This chart explains the path the bill will take on the way to becoming law, and where it can be changed.

The process begins here

with an immigration reform bill introduced in the Senate or the House



Only once the immigration reform bill completes this process will it be law. Until that happens, there is no application process. Do not give your money to lawyers or notarios that tell you otherwise!

The 113th Congress



113th Congress, Second Session

HOUSE CALENDAR

ERIC CANTOR MAJORITY LEADER

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH									
S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa	S	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa			
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APRIL							MAY							JUNE									
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JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER									
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OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER									
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We the People
2014

Current situation

- Deportations have increased significantly under 287g and “Secure Communities” Programs (approximately 400,000 deportations per year; reached 2 millionth in March of 2014 for past 5 year period)
- Nationwide, an estimated 4.5 million U.S. citizen children have at least one parent who is undocumented.
- Increasing entanglement of local law enforcement with federal immigration enforcement undermines community policing and drives victims and witnesses further into the shadows
- Everyone acknowledges that the current Immigration system is broken
 - Status Quo completely unacceptable

Increased Vulnerability of Undocumented Immigrant Women

- High likelihood of experiencing exploitation or abuse when crossing the border
- Increased vulnerability to exploitation and wage theft while working
- Limited access to services and safety net
- Increased risk of violence in the home
- Increased fears of losing their children
- Increased fears to contact police or seek services
- Vulnerability to sex and labor trafficking
- Vulnerability to abuse in immigration detention

National DV Hotline Survey

- Six-week survey in August of 2012
- 1,305 Latina callers participated in the survey
- 583 (45%) said they were foreign-born
- 39% of foreign-born Latinas said they were afraid of calling the police or going to court for help as a result of the general immigration situation

Immigration Reform is also a Women's Issue

- Women make up 51% of the immigrant population; 75% of undocumented immigrants are women and children.
- The U.S. government estimates that 14,500-17,500 individuals are trafficked into the United States each year, the majority being women and children.
- It is estimated that there are approximately 4 million undocumented immigrant women living in the United States

Limitations of Current VAWA Protections

- Only approximately 5,000 VAWA self-petitions issued annually
- Current cap of 10,000 U visas was already met early in fiscal year
- Women in U.S. as spouse of employment-based visa holder have limited protections and no work authorization
- Gender asylum time limits very restrictive

Importance of Immigration Reform

- Create better balanced system that responds to global marketplace and protects human rights
- Create a path to legalization that equitably values women's work
- Promote family reunification and reduce family visa backlogs
- Expand access to independent immigration status to improve personal safety and autonomy of women
- Expand protections for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and trafficking

Some Key Improvements in Senate Bipartisan Bill (S.744)

- Pathway to legalization and work authorization, with possibility of citizenship for undocumented individuals who meet qualifications after thirteen years
- Enhanced U visa protections:
 - Increases current limit of 10,000 U visas to 18,000 U visas annually
 - Makes U visas available for immigrants who have suffered serious civil workplace violations: workplace abuse, exploitation, retaliation
 - Adds child abuse and elder abuse as U visa eligible crimes

Some other improvements for survivors

- Expands protections for abused spouses
 - In legalization process for undocumented
 - Where spouse has temporary work or education visa
- Eliminates 1 year filing deadline for asylum for those fleeing persecution
- Improves access to work authorization for applicants of VAWA self-petition and U visa in more timely manner
- Improves screening of unaccompanied minors for trafficking and bolsters protections for workers recruited abroad by foreign labor contractors

H.R. 15 Immigration Reform bill introduced in House of Representatives

- Introduced on October 2, 2013 and has 199 co-sponsors (including several Republicans)
- Includes most of the provisions of the bipartisan Senate Immigration Reform bill (S.744), including pathway to legalization for undocumented and all the improved protections for immigrant survivors
- Border section is different with provisions from bipartisan House Homeland Security bill
- Discharge petition filed in the House on March 26, 2014
- House leadership has said they will not bring HR 15 to a vote and will work on piece-meal legislation instead

Prospects for Immigration Reform

- There is Bi-Partisan Support for Immigration Reform, but they need to break out of the impasse in the House
- Polls show the majority of the American public supports Immigration Reform
 - CNN/OCR poll in Feb. 2014 showed 81% of Americans support pathway to legal status and eventual citizenship
- Non-partisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO) analysis of Senate bill showed significant positive economic benefits nationally over the next 2 decades
- It's also recognized as a critical human rights and civil rights issue

Bibles, Badges and Business for Immigration Reform

- A national network of faith, law enforcement and business leaders working together to educate and support members of Congress as they consider reforms to the immigration system
- www.bbbimmigration.org

Collaborations in Messaging

- Role that DV/SA Advocates can play in reaching out to law enforcement
- Example of Congressional briefing in November hosted by the VAW Immigration Committee with two police chiefs as speakers, along with DV Advocate and National DV Hotline
- “For Immigrant Women, Domestic Violence Creates a Double Shadow,” Washington Post, December 2, 2013.

Advocacy Day Activities

- NNEDV Advocacy Day on Wednesday, June 4th will include need for Immigration Reform as one of the legislative priorities
 - NNEDV Advocacy Day in June 2013 helped educate members of Congress on the importance of immigration reform
 - DV/SA Advocates played significant role in Senate bill in advancing important amendments to enhance protections for immigrant survivors and oppose amendments that would have been harmful
- Week of June 2nd – 6th: Take Action for Immigration Reform on Behalf of Immigrant Survivors of DV, SA and Stalking
 - See Background document and one-pager
 - List of House Republicans who supported VAWA reauth legislation

Key Messages

- It is urgent that Congress pass immigration reform this year. The status quo is unacceptable since it heightens vulnerability to abuse and exploitation for millions of women and children.
- Immigration reform that provides a pathway to legal status and work authorization will significantly enhance prevention and intervention efforts, by providing an opportunity for millions of vulnerable immigrant women to pursue a pathway to safety, stability, and economic self-sufficiency for themselves and their children.
- The House needs to pass immigration reform legislation that will strengthen the health and well-being of millions of families and communities and strengthen our nation's economy.

Telling Survivor Stories

- Use stories, if possible, of immigrant survivors in your jurisdiction
- Protect confidentiality
- Highlight how abusers or manipulative employers use immigration status as a tool of abuse; and how that tool is sharpened as a result of current policies or how current policies undermine self-sufficiency and autonomy
- Demonstrate the broader impact on children or other family members

Story of Nely Fuentes

- Nely Fuentes lived in San Francisco and last year the neighbors called police when her boyfriend was beating her up
- Due to lack of language access she was not able to explain what had happened and the police arrested both her and her boyfriend
- Even though no charges were brought against her, she was detained as a result of “Secure Communities” and placed in detention awaiting deportation for 8 months until finally through the help of a lawyer was able to obtain a U visa
- Significant chilling effect and increased fear for victims or witnesses to call the police
- <http://www.npr.org/2013/10/07/230192101/california-wont-wait-for-congress-on-immigration-reform>

Q & A

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