

April 4, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Honorable Members of Congress:

The undersigned organizations urge you to stand firm on the inclusion of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) families - and the Uniting American Families Act (UAFSA) - in any comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

We are counting on you to ensure that these families are included in any final comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The situation faced by thousands of LGBT binational couples and their families is untenable. Without the ability to sponsor their partners and spouses for immigration, many LGBT Americans and their families face the terrible choice of separating, or leaving the country to live in exile.

We stand ready to work with Congress to mobilize our grassroots networks in support of comprehensive immigration legislation that provides a timely, clear and humane pathway to citizenship for undocumented people; prioritizes family unity by preserving existing family categories, increasing visas for family categories, reducing wait times for separated families, and ending the discrimination in immigration law that LGBT binational families face; ensures humane enforcement of immigration laws, including due process rights and reforms to immigration detention; guarantees full workplace rights, including wage protections, mobility and the right to organize; and lifts the one-year filing deadline for asylum.

The opportunity to pass inclusive and humane comprehensive immigration reform is a critical, once-in-a-generation opportunity. LGBT families cannot continue to be locked out of the system, suffering separation and exile. LGBT families, and our undocumented loved ones, must be included in comprehensive immigration reform now.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
Affirmation: Gay & Lesbian Mormons
African American Ministers In Action – Equal Justice Task Force
Alliance of Baptists
American Civil Liberties Union

API Equality - Northern California
Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific American Legal Center, a member of the Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)
Auburn Theological Seminary
Believe Out Loud
Bend the Arc: A Jewish Partnership for Justice
Bethel Christian Church, DC
California Association for Bilingual Education (CABE)
Canal Alliance
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Children's Alliance
Chinese for Affirmative Action
Church World Service
Council for Global Equality
The Covenant Network of Presbyterians
DignityUSA
DREAM Team Los Angeles (DTLA)
El Centro de la Raza
Entre Hermanos, Seattle, WA
The Episcopal Church
Equal Rights Washington
Equality Illinois
Equally Blessed
Family Equality Council
The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries
Forum For Equality Louisiana
Freedom to Marry
Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network
GetEQUAL
GLAD (Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders)
GLAD Alliance, Inc.
Global Justice Institute
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)
Human Rights Campaign
Human Rights Watch
Immigration Equality Action Fund
Institute for Socio Economic Justice, Inc., Brawley, CA
Integrity USA
Keshet
Latino GLBT History Project
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area

League of United Latin American Citizens
The LOFT: LGBT Community Services Center, White Plains NY
Love Exiles Foundation
Marriage Equality USA
MassEquality
May First Coalition for Immigrants Rights – Fresno, CA.
Metropolitan Community Churches
More Light Presbyterians
Mujeres Unidas y Activas
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC)
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP)
National Council of Jewish Women
National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Immigrant Justice Center
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
New York City Anti-Violence Project
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
OneAmerica
Our Family Coalition
Out4Immigration
Pangea Legal Services
People For the American Way
PFLAG Juneau
PFLAG National
Physicians for a National Health Program California
Presbyterian Welcome, New York, NY
Pride At Work AFL CIO
Pride Foundation
PROMO (Missouri)
Queer Undocumented Immigrant Project - WA Chapter
ReconcilingWorks: Lutherans for Full Participation
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Religious Institute
SAGE (Services & Advocacy for GLBT Elders)
SEIU Washington State Council
Soulforce
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)”
South Carolina Equality

Stop The Checkpoints, Port Angeles, WA
Tennessee Transgender Political Coalition
TODEC Legal Center
Transgender Law Center
The Trevor Project
UCC GenderFold Action Alliance
Union for Reform Judaism
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry, CA
The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Unity Coalition | Coalicion Unida
Unity Fellowship Church Movement
Unity Fellowship of Christ NYC
The Universal Anglican Church
Washington DREAM Act Coalition
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual (WATER)

Dianne Aid, President of The Episcopal Network for Economic Justice
Rabbi Laurence Edwards, Congregation Or Chadash, Chicago, IL
Bob Gibeling, Lutheran Services of Georgia
Rabbi Joshua Lesser, chair of the Social Justice Commission for the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement
Phil Porter, Minister of Art & Communication, First Church Berkeley, UCC, and Moderator of the UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns
Edie Recker, UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns