

## Comprehensive Immigration Reform

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**Senate:** No movement. Little hope the Senate will act this year. No room in the calendar before elections in November. No Republican support.

*Resources:* REPAIR framework: [www.politico.com/static/PPM154\\_proposal.html](http://www.politico.com/static/PPM154_proposal.html)  
Summary: [www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=31857](http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=31857)

**House:** No action; waiting for Senate to act first (no use making a politically risky vote if the Senate has no intention of taking action).

- **Faith hearing:** On July 14<sup>th</sup>, the House Judiciary Committee heard from two evangelical leaders and a Catholic Bishop on “the Ethical Imperative for Reform of our Immigration System.” Read their statements or watch the full hearing here: [judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear\\_100714.html](http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_100714.html)

### Recent articles / blogs:

- **Tougher border enforcement leads to more undocumented immigration**

This excellent article describes how increased border enforcement activities have led to increased numbers of migrants staying in the U.S. without documentation.

[washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/19/tougher-border-enforcement-leads-to-more-undocumented-immigration/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/19/tougher-border-enforcement-leads-to-more-undocumented-immigration/)

- **An economic case for immigration reform**

New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg announced a new bipartisan coalition of mayors and business leaders working for “sensible” reforms to the U.S. immigration system.

[washingtonmemo.org/2010/06/28/3678/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/06/28/3678/)

## Stand Alone Bills?

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Congress may decide to move individual bills as a “down payment” on comprehensive immigration reform. Two bills reportedly being discussed are the DREAM Act and AgJobs (both bills have bipartisan support). Immigrant advocacy groups such as Reform Immigration for America are supporting this approach, given the lack of prospects for CIR this year.

**AgJobs** would help undocumented farm workers and agricultural guest workers obtain temporary immigration status with the possibility of becoming permanent residents.

The **DREAM Act** would help undocumented youth who graduate from high school obtain legal permanent residence. MCC has supported the DREAM Act in past years.

- Resources:**
- **DREAM Act fact sheet & sample letter:** [washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration/resources](http://washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration/resources)
  - **EMU Alum Isabel Castillo: Giving the DREAM a Push:** [washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/27/emu-alum-isabel-castillo-giving-the-dream-a-push/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/27/emu-alum-isabel-castillo-giving-the-dream-a-push/)

## Refugees

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**Indigent Refugees to Lose Federal Assistance:** The Social Security Administration is about to terminate cash assistance for thousands of indigent refugees who are severely disabled or over the age of 64.  
[www.nytimes.com/2010/08/01/us/01benefits.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/01/us/01benefits.html)

## Detentions and Deportations

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- 2010 a Record Year for Deportations:** The Obama administration is on pace to deport a record 400,000 immigrants this year.
- Supreme Court Deportation Ruling:** On June 14, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that legal immigrants convicted of minor drug possession offenses could not be summarily deported. Since 1996, thousands of such immigrants have been deported — many who had been in the U.S. since they were small children — leaving families and lives behind.  
[washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/26/deportation-madness/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/26/deportation-madness/)
- Help for Separated Children:** A bill aimed at helping the children of adults targeted by immigration raids.  
[washingtonmemo.org/2010/06/24/help-for-separated-children/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/06/24/help-for-separated-children/)

## U.S.-Mexico Border Enforcement

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**Restoration begins in some areas damaged by border fence**  
[washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/29/restoration-begins-in-some-areas-damaged-by-border-fence/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/29/restoration-begins-in-some-areas-damaged-by-border-fence/)

## U.S-Canada Border Enforcement

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In July, U.S. Customs & Border Patrol gave notice that it was drafting four Programmatic Environmental Impact Statements for border security activities along the U.S.-Canada border.

- Two good points:
- CBP is actually doing environmental impact studies (rather than waiving all environmental laws, as they did on the southern border).
  - There is no mention of constructing fencing or walls.
- Two bad points:
- Little notice was given for regional “scoping” meetings where the public and environmental experts could provide comments and some of the information about places and times was missing or incorrect.
  - Information provided in the notice and at the meetings was extremely vague, making it difficult to provide useful feedback on the potential environmental damage of CBP activities.

MCC drafted a letter to CBP (and several other faith organizations signed) asking for more clarity on specific border security actions and an extension of the comment period (which was scheduled to end Aug. 5).

Recent Articles: **Border meeting raises more questions than answers**  
[www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/07/20/1532916/border-meeting-raises-more-questions.html](http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2010/07/20/1532916/border-meeting-raises-more-questions.html)

## Arizona Law Blocked

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Many portions of the Arizona law SB 1070 were blocked by a Phoenix district court judge from going into effect last week. For details on which provisions were blocked and which ones weren't, see: [immigrationimpact.com/2010/07/29/judge's-decision-doesn't-stop-arizona-from-combating-border-violence/](http://immigrationimpact.com/2010/07/29/judge's-decision-doesn't-stop-arizona-from-combating-border-violence/).

## The 14th Amendment and Birthright Citizenship

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Resources: **“Defending the Fourteenth Amendment”** from the Immigration Policy Center  
[www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/defending-fourteenth-amendment](http://www.immigrationpolicy.org/just-facts/defending-fourteenth-amendment)

## Grassroots Activities

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**MCC Washington Office:** Action Alerts: [washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/](http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/)

**Mennonite Church USA:** **August 9 – Mennonite Church USA Immigration Call, 8:30pm EST**

877-271-0672 (Toll-Free), access code: 0108319

If you are local, please use these numbers to save PJSN a few dollars:

Local Numbers:

- Elkhart - 574-523-3030
- Newton - 316-281-4433
- Harrisonburg - 540-908-2590

Resources: [peace.mennolink.org/immigration.html](http://peace.mennolink.org/immigration.html)

**God's Love Has No Borders**

[washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/05/gods-love-has-no-borders/](http://washingtonmemo.org/2010/07/05/gods-love-has-no-borders/)

Describes how one church in Nebraska is responding to the immigration debate

**Interfaith Immigration Coalition:** Monthly grassroots calls, usually on the first Monday of the month

Check: [www.interfaithimmigration.org](http://www.interfaithimmigration.org)

## Legislative Updates

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To stay up-to-date on immigration reform legislation, visit our blog or sign up for action alerts via email:

- MCC Washington Office Blog: [washingtonmemo.org](http://washingtonmemo.org)
- Action Alerts: [washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/](http://washington.mcc.org/advocate/alerts/)

## Statements on Immigration Reform

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- MCC U.S. Immigration Policy Principles: [washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration](http://washington.mcc.org/issues/immigration)
- Mennonite Church USA Statement on Immigration: [peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigrationletter\\_eng.pdf](http://peace.mennolink.org/resources/immigrationletter_eng.pdf)
- National Association of Evangelicals: [www.nae.net/resolutions/347-immigration-2009](http://www.nae.net/resolutions/347-immigration-2009)